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Proceedings

of the

Fifty-first Regular Convention

of

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

Anaheim, California

July 4—11, 1975





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Officers of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

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MR. W. J. BARGE, *Convention Manager*

Jesus Christus Dominus Est

Prior to the convention the hope had been expressed that the resolutions of the convention would be firm, loving, and confessional.

There has been a mixed reaction to the resolutions adopted in Anaheim. Some feel that the resolutions were altogether too firm; others that they were not firm enough. Perhaps such a mixed reaction indicates that the objective has been achieved at least to some extent.

Those who were closely associated with the convention would undoubtedly concede that procedurally it was much better than several previous conventions. Contributing to this improvement were the following: the meeting of the floor committees in advance to draft tentative resolutions and to share them with the delegates prior to their departure for Anaheim; the small-group program for Bible study, for discussion of issues, and for getting better acquainted; and perhaps last but not least the standing rules which the convention adopted.

Among these we might mention especially the 2-minute rule for speakers; the automatic decision on the part of the assembly after every 30 minutes of debate whether the convention now wished to terminate debate; the prioritization of resolutions by number and their consideration usually in that order; the so-called "Behnken rule" for the handling of substitute motions.

According to the special standing rules adopted by the convention no omnibus resolution of mass referrals was possible, but resolutions which were not acted upon before adjournment died, with the understanding that the subject matter would need to be reintroduced at the next convention by means of an overture.

Also helpful was the introduction of two resolutions aimed at expediting the business of the convention. Floor committees were permitted to recommend in Resolution A that those who had submitted certain overtures be directed to bring their proposals to a specific office, board, commission, or department of the Synod before presenting the matter to the convention. In Resolution B floor committees were able to list those overtures in which petitioners were referred to the actions of a previous convention for an answer to their concern.

The number of points of order raised were fewer than in recent conventions.

Questions of privilege seemed to become somewhat of a problem. It is not easy to distinguish between a question of privilege and a privileged motion. Questions of information also seemed to be quite time consuming. Both types of questions seemed to be used at times in order to leapfrog into an advantageous position in the process of debate.

But most observers would undoubtedly agree that the Anaheim convention was procedurally an improvement over those of the immediate past.

* * *

We are again listing for ready reference some of the more important resolutions that came before the convention:

Res. 1-03	Renewal Retreats
Res. 2-01A	Mission
Res. 2-02A	Mission Study Commission
Res. 2-06, 2-07A	Campus Ministry
Res. 3-01	Theological Discussions Toward Unity
Res. 3-03A	Former Faculty
Res. 3-04	Doctrinal Statements
Res. 3-05	A Statement
Res. 3-06	ELIM
Res. 3-12	LCUSA
Res. 4-02A	English District
Res. 5-01A	Task Force on Organization
Res. 5-02A	District Presidents
Res. 5-06	Congregations with Unendorsed Pastors
Res. 5-07	Status of Seminex Instructors
Res. 5-08	Removal of District Presidents
Res. 5-09	CCM Opinions
Res. 5-10	New Orleans Resolutions
Res. 6-02	Status of Seminex
Res. 6-04	Colloquies and Exceptions
Res. 6-05	Status of Seminex Graduates
Res. 6-07A	Synodical Educational System
Res. 6-08A	Adjustments in Educational System
Res. 6-11A	Lay Ministry
Res. 7-06	TV Ministry
Res. 8-03, 4-15	World Hunger
Res. 9-12	Lawsuits
Res. 12-01	Eligibility of Delegates
Res. 14-01	Preconvention Procedure

Since the device seems to have been helpful, we have again added to some resolutions additional information in small print from the notebooks of both secretaries.

The numbers in parentheses below each resolution indicate the session in which action was taken. It is suggested that in many instances the minutes of that session may well be consulted for further information.

CW is the symbol for *Convention Workbook*, the 500-page book of reports and overtures submitted to the convention. TB refers to *Today's Business*, the daily manual bringing the text of the proposed resolutions drafted by the floor committees. This time, because the floor committees met several weeks prior to the convention, the first issue of *Today's Business*, published in two sections, contained practically all of the proposed resolutions.

For the sake of the record perhaps the following items should also be noted:

- All sessions were held in the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California.
- The theme of the convention was "Jesus Christ Is Lord."
- On Saturday afternoon delegates were invited either to participate in evangelism activities in the neighboring parishes or to attend evangelism workshops at the convention center.
- On Sunday morning an evangelism service was held with the Rev. Paul J. Foust as the preacher.
- On Sunday evening a gala Celebration was held in the Arena with a "standing room only" audience in attendance. Featured were special ministries conducted in Southern California.
- A Recognition Night was held on Monday evening to give recognition to those who were serving in

some distinctive way, who were retiring from positions of leadership, or who had passed into the Church Triumphant. One added feature was the appearance in two segments of the "Spirit" group from Seward singing portions of the cantata "Celebrate the Spirit."

A special word of thanks should be extended to Dr. Walter Rosin, who again had the principal responsibility of producing the Minutes under pressure, and to Miss Jean Buettner and her hardworking crew, who produced *Today's Business* under the general editorship of the Secretary.

* * *

And what shall one say in summary of the Anaheim convention?

We used as our convention theme the simple statement: "Jesus Christ Is Lord." This statement, taken directly from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, forms also in its Latin translation "Jesus Christus Dominus Est" the heart of the synodical seal. It needs to be also at the heart of our life together in the Synod.

Whether the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our opportunities and in our difficulties will become a reality to a greater degree as a result of the Anaheim gathering remains to be seen. Please God that all of us will already join that vast number who someday shall bow their knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father! Those who kneel together can live together in the knowledge: "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness," and under the promise: "If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Perhaps the Lordship of Jesus Christ is summed up best for us in our present situation by His own great words: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

It is all there: the gracious invitation, the yoke of happy servanthood, and the life-renewing promise!

HERBERT MUELLER, *Secretary*

A. Voting and Advisory Delegates

Alberta and British Columbia District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Dressler, Linden, Taber, Alta.
2. Ohlinger, Eldon, Calgary, Alta.
3. McDonald, Gilbert K., Whitecourt, Alta.
4. Ritter, Walter, Edmonton, Alta.
5. Rath, Ernst, Kelowna, B. C.
6. Redenbach, S., New Westminster, B. C.
7. Fox, Eduard, Port Coquitlam, B. C.

B. Voting Laymen

1. Asmundsen, Ed, Innisfail, Alta.
2. Rosenau, Henry, Calgary, Alta.
3. Nilsson, Philip, Grande-Prairie, Alta.
4. Storch, Donald, Edmonton, Alta.
5. Turnbull, Gordon, Rossland, B. C.
6. Smith, George, Vancouver, B. C.
7. Metzger, John, Langley, B. C.

C. Advisory Pastor

Stahlke, Lester, Edmonton, Alta.

Atlantic District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Spurgat, Otto R., Scotia, NY
2. Yingling Jr., Stanton A., Albany, NY
3. Schroeder, Henry C., Monroe, NY
4. Lieneck, William, Yonkers, NY
5. Ferren, William, Bronx, NY
6. Schulze, Raymond C., New York, NY
7. Schultheis, Vernon, Brooklyn, NY
8. Hammond, Thomas E., Astoria, NY
9. Fink, Ronald, Flushing, NY
10. Roth, Clarence, Queens Village, NY
11. Spitz, C. Thomas, Port Washington, NY
12. Marschhausen, John J., Mineola, NY
13. Ressimeyer, Henry F., East Northport, NY
14. Meyer, William J., Patchogue, NY

B. Voting Laymen

1. Donaho, Dr. Melvin, Plattsburgh, NY
2. Stieve, Raymond, Albany, NY
3. Vangor, Emil, Peekskill, NY
4. Magarian, Nazareth, Yonkers, NY
5. Muller, Stephen, Mahopac, NY
6. Blackwell, Lois, New York, NY
7. Curtis, Wilbur, Brooklyn, NY
8. Hoffman, Mary Ann, Forest Hills, NY
9. Ballner, Marie, Flushing, NY
10. Guthel, Herman E., Richmond Hill, NY
11. Nordstrom, Arthur, Port Washington, NY
12. Swift, Dr. William Judd, Farmingdale, NY
13. Witt, Robert H., Huntington Station, NY
14. Ebinger, Marvin, Sayville, NY

C. Advisory Pastors

Filbert, Bernhard, Tuckahoe, NY
Gutheil, Robert H., New York, NY
Sudbrock, James E., Bronx, NY

D. Advisory Teachers

Aufdemberge, Edgar H., Tuckahoe, NY
Endorf, Welden W., Hicksville, NY
Kullmann, Russell P., Bronx, NY
Peters, Rebecca, Mrs., Mount Vernon, NY
Rausch, Richard O., Hempstead, NY
Steinbrueck, Richard G., Brooklyn, NY

California and Nevada District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Bauer, Kenneth, San Francisco, CA
2. Koch, Robert, Hayward, CA
3. Nauyok, Elmer, Stockton, CA
4. Thiele, Waldemar, Sacramento, CA
5. Holtz, Eugene R., Delano, CA
6. Jagow, Frederick, San Rafael, CA
7. Kuehn, Roger R., Antioch, CA
8. Taddey, Martin R., Palo Alto, CA
9. Zimmermann, James W., Santa Maria, CA
10. Handrich, John, Reno, NV
11. Gundermann, Milton, Kaneohe, HI
12. May, Wilbur, Gridley, CA
13. Redeker, Norman, Windsor, CA

14. Sorensen, Herbert, Dinuba, CA
15. Johnson, Harold G., Santa Cruz, CA
16. Brohm, Robert J., Richmond, CA
17. Blanke, Henry A., San Jose, CA
18. Hanebutt, Robert L., North Highlands, CA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Pfotenbauer, Jay, San Francisco, CA
2. Fickenscher, Ralph, Fremont, CA
3. Anderson, Larry, Stockton, CA
4. Herrmann, Leonard, Davis, CA
5. Enstad, Gale, Bakersfield, CA
6. Foster, Donald, Vacaville, CA
7. Thomsen, T. C., San Ramon, CA
8. Leveen, John E., Menlo Park, CA
9. Pauling, David, Lompoc, CA
10. Hamilton, John, Susanville, CA
11. Hanusa, Robert, Wailuku Maui, HI
12. Houser, Paul T., Corning, CA
13. Fessler, Luther, Upper Lake, CA
14. Bertelsen, Allen, Fresno, CA
15. Bohrer, Shirley, Capitola, CA
16. Beetz, Robert, Richmond, CA
17. Selle, W. H., Milpitas, CA
18. Jones, Dorothy, Grass Valley, CA

C. Advisory Pastors

Abraham, Stanley, Sacramento, CA
Schmidt, Herb, Santa Cruz, CA

D. Advisory Teachers

Behrens, Gary, Redwood City, CA
Hebel, Harry, Sacramento, CA
Marty, Robert, Fair Oaks, CA

Central Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Travis, Martin, St. Peter, IL
2. Hofmann, Ronald, Washburn, IL
3. Schmidt, Ronald, Mattoon, IL
4. Reek, J. Dirk, Hoopeston, IL
5. Kaeding, Hugo, Decatur, IL
6. Kaufmann, Phillip, Wheeler, IL
7. Knief, Louis C., Arenzville, IL
8. Kirchner, Donald E., Chestnut, IL
9. Likeness, David, Washington, IL
10. Hallerberg, Herbert W., Quincy, IL
11. Kuhn, Robert, Geneseo, IL
12. Otto, Jr., Edgar J., Springfield, IL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Meseke, Forrest, Shobonier, IL
2. Kolbus, Howard W., Bloomington, IL
3. Bokenkamp, Robert, Champaign, IL
4. Mull, Howard, Rantoul, IL
5. Standerfer, Wayne, Decatur, IL
6. Stortzum, August, Louisville, IL
7. Alhorn, Wilbur, Meredosia, IL
8. Roos, Marlin, Lincoln, IL
9. Irving, Donald, Peoria, IL
10. Steinkuhler, Leroy, Camp Point, IL
11. Schuett, John C., Moline, IL
12. Lovekamp, Herbert W., Pawnee, IL

C. Advisory Pastor

Ohlde, Carroll D., Normal, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Becker, Herbert H., Altamont, IL
Bernhardt, David H., Jacksonville, IL
Brandt, Marvin J., Peoria, IL

Colorado District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Obermeier, Arnold, Sterling, CO
2. Buck, Ray, Brighton, CO
3. Phipps, Ralph, Denver, CO
4. Hennig, John F., Fort Collins, CO
5. Barnes, Bob A., Providence, UT
6. Grumm, Stephen, Canon City, CO
7. Schultz, Dale E., Cortez, CO
8. Hagen, L. K., Albuquerque, NM
9. Kluhsman, Merrill M., El Paso, TX
10. Scheimann, Max H., Pueblo, CO

B. Voting Laymen

1. Skov, Ralph, Holyoke, CO
2. Karel, James, Wheat Ridge, CO
3. Dragieff, Myron, Denver, CO
4. Hage, Debora, Boulder, CO
5. Kapfer, Philip, Salt Lake City, UT
6. Lehmppuhl, Robert H., Monument, CO
7. Spengler, Robert, Grand Junction, CO
8. Tinker, Carol, Las Vegas, NM
9. Bulls, Derrell W., Portales, NM
10. McCue, Rosina, Arriba, CO

C. Advisory Pastors

Heintzen, Erich H., Littleton, CO
Mundinger, G. H., Denver, CO

D. Advisory Teachers

Schlueter, Kenneth E., Colorado Sprgs., CO
Schlichting, Albert C., Denver, CO

Eastern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Brockmann, James E., Tonawanda, NY
2. Jacobi, Fred C., Eden, NY
3. Gaal, Albert H., Sanborn, NY
4. Buchmann, Rolf A., North Tonawanda, NY
5. Krentz, Elmer W., Wellsville, NY
6. Kruelle, Carl H., Albion, PA
7. Roemer, Carl E., Newark, NY
8. Tiemann, Delbert C., Rochester, NY
9. Kitts, A. Sidney, Rochester, NY
10. Schulze, Theodore A., Potsdam, NY
11. White, Laurence L., Pittsburgh, PA
12. Koenig, Walter H., Pittsburgh, PA
13. Robinson, Roger A., Pittsburgh, PA
14. Blankenbuehler, Lorenz, Pittsburgh, PA
15. Lavalais, Joseph G., Philadelphia, PA
16. Mach, Emil, Scranton, PA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Gromer, Robert W., Williamsville, NY
2. Moeller, Robert A., West Seneca, NY
3. Pafk, Glenn, Akron, NY
4. Christian, H. P., Niagara Falls, NY
5. Kinley, William, Olean, NY
6. Brinkman, Delmar, Silver Creek, NY
7. Shaulis, Nelson, Geneva, NY
8. Becker, Walter, Webster, NY
9. Elliott, Richard S., Hilton, NY
10. Bierwagen, Max E., Dewitt, NY
11. Heintz, Frederick W., Glenshaw, PA
12. Jenista, John S., New Castle, PA
13. Schuetz, Ralph, Monroeville, PA
14. Ritter, Robert, Charleoi, PA
15. Kraft, Clifford A., West Chester, PA
16. Brune, Arthur, Easton, PA

C. Advisory Pastor

Wennerstrom, Robert J., Rochester, NY

D. Advisory Teachers

Daenzer, Leslie, Niagara Falls, NY
Flesch, Robert, North Tonawanda, NY

English District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Laesch, Norman T., Tucson, AZ
2. Eifert, Paul G., Montreal Que., Can.
3. May, Nicholas B., Wilmette, IL
4. Meyer, Norbert W., Park Ridge, IL
5. Mau, John A., Orland Park, IL
6. Odom, Frazier N., Chicago, IL
7. Landahl, Paul R., Riverside, IL
8. Bornemann, George W., Elmhurst, IL
9. Dicke, Harold F., Cleveland Heights, OH
10. Pelikan, Theodore, Cleveland, OH
11. Janz, Marvin P., Sarnia, Ont., Can.
12. Jung, Donald F., West Bloomfield, MI
13. Kretzmann, Justus P., Florissant, MO
14. Elsner, Robert C., Laporte, IN
15. Meier, William E., West Allis, WI
16. Koepke, Theodore V., Cliffside Park, NJ
17. Hoyer, Richard O., Philadelphia, PA
18. Hemmeter, Henry P., Pittsburgh, PA

19. Krause, Paul M., St. Paul, MN
20. King, Ernest H., Los Angeles, CA
21. Gugel, John, St. Louis, MO
22. Nissen, Eugene W., Ann Arbor, MI
23. Cress, Clyde O., Midland, MI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Stoltz, Wayne A., Scottsdale, AZ
2. Erzkus, Albert, Buffalo, NY
3. Pick, Hildegard J., Mrs., Chicago, IL
4. Johnson, Carl, Arlington Heights, IL
5. Peterson, Elmo F., Bradley, IL
6. Larson, Janet L., Chicago, IL
7. Mojden, Wallace W., Hinsdale, IL
8. McAuliffe, Richard, Glen Ellyn, IL
9. Lisy, Norman W., Mayfield Heights, OH
10. Neubacher, Rudolph, Fairview Park, OH
11. Roellig, Leonard O., Grosse Pointe, MI
12. Lawrence, Donald, Detroit, MI
13. Marty, Shirley, Mrs., St. Louis, MO
14. Sims, Roger, Munster, IN
15. Hatfield, William J., Janesville, WI
16. Diggs, Lemore, St. Albans, NY
17. Roeper, Albert P., Yardley, PA
18. Fillnow, Ronald, Pittsburgh, PA
19. Rehwaldt, R. J., St. Paul, MN
20. Rader, Marcus, San Mateo, CA
21. Fey, Earl, St. Louis, MO
22. Stroebel, Clinton E., Plymouth, MI
23. Ayriess, Arthur, Wyoming, MI

C. Advisory Pastors

- Baumgaertner, John H., Sturgeon Bay, WI
 Goetting, Paul F., St. Louis, MO
 Jungkuntz, Richard P., Tacoma, WA
 Stuckmeyer, David C., Arlington Hts, IL
 Woldt, William E., Farmington, MI

D. Advisory Teachers

- Becker, Emil A., Chicago, IL
 Dey, Robert, Paramus, NJ
 Lauterbach, Kermit R., North Olmsted, OH
 Brandt, Larry L., Elmhurst, IL

Florida-George District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Craig, Roy, Decatur, GA
2. Besalski, Robert, Gainesville, FL
3. Doellinger, Paul, Apopka, FL
4. Sommerfield, Bruce, Merritt Island, FL
5. Michalk, Wilbern, Lakeland, FL
6. Krug, Eugene, Boca Raton, FL
7. Klemm, Robert C., Delray Beach, FL
8. Glienke, H. J., Hialeah, FL
9. Truax, Charles, Tavernier, FL
10. Fangmeier, Timothy, Fort Myers, FL
11. Weerts, Milan G., St. Petersburg, FL
12. Kelly, Adrian R., Tampa, FL
13. Zehnder, Thomas R., Columbus, GA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Aсталos, Robert, Decatur, GA
2. Peters, William, Lake City, FL
3. Vorpapel, David L., Longwood, FL
4. Havens, Howard, Indian Harbour Bch., FL
5. Vaughn, James, Winter Haven, FL
6. Esmann, William, Pompano Beach, FL
7. Antonsen, William, Lake Worth, FL
8. Naumann, Ted, Miami, FL
9. Keller, Carl, Miami, FL
10. Lloyd, John, Naples, FL
11. Reagh, Carl L., St. Petersburg, FL
12. Beccue, Paul, Tampa, FL
13. Bunge, Luther J., Columbus, GA

C. Advisory Pastor

- Ressel, Delvin, Winter Park, FL

D. Advisory Teachers

- Bauer, Judy, Boca Raton, FL
 Moser, Carl J., Orlando, FL
 Rose, David W., Key West, FL

Indiana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Timmer, William, East Chicago, IN
2. Meileander, G., Hobart, IN

3. Boehringer, Hans, Valparaiso, IN
4. Schulz, Robert, North Judson, IN
5. Schroer, Kenneth, South Bend, IN
6. Rastl, Marvin, Columbia City, IN
7. Klees, Theodore, Fort Wayne, IN
8. Widman, Richard, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Hendrickson, Harvey, Woodburn, IN
10. Hoppes, James, Decatur, IN
11. Storm, Eugene, Rensselaer, IN
12. Niederbrach, Willard, Muncie, IN
13. Schaper, Gary, Indianapolis, IN
14. Hellert, Alfred, Indianapolis, IN
15. Brandt, Eldon, Columbus, IN
16. Moyer, John V., Brownstown, IN
17. Werner, John T. P., Dillsboro, IN
18. Haertel, Robert, Louisville, KY
19. Wacker, David, Evansville, IN
20. Rediger, Fred, Evansville, IN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Kutansky, Rudolph, Hammond, IN
2. Kendt, H., Merrillville, IN
3. Rommelmann, Paul, Kouts, IN
4. Scholz, Paul, La Porte, IN
5. May, Henry, Osceola, IN
6. Van Meter, David, Albion, IN
7. Murphy, Ronald, Fort Wayne, IN
8. Gerke, Walter, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Hitzemann, Richard, Fort Wayne, IN
10. Muselman, Arthur, Berne, IN
11. Walter, Kenneth, Culver, IN
12. North, Paul, Tipton, IN
13. Bosma, Charles, Beech Grove, IN
14. Heyne, Robert P., Indianapolis, IN
15. Ebeling, David, Bloomington, IN
16. Goecker, Gerald, Brownstown, IN
17. Greive, William G., Lawrenceburg, IN
18. Traub, Herbert, Georgetown, IN
19. Heldt, Jr., Carl A., Evansville, IN
20. Umbach, Albert, Jr., Evansville, IN

C. Advisory Pastors

- Pohlrs, D., Muncie, IN
 Rau, Omar, Evansville, IN

D. Advisory Teachers

- Gallmeier, Carl, Fort Wayne, IN
 Hinrichs, Erich, Fort Wayne, IN
 Kentel, C., Bremen, IN
 Knoedler, Robt., Peru, IN
 Menges, Albert, Lanesville, IN
 Muehl, W., Indianapolis, IN
 Scheiman, R., Fort Wayne, IN
 Schultz, Gilbert, Columbus, IN
 Wolt, G., Elkhart, IN

Iowa East District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Dohrmann, Edward F., Newhall, IA
2. Huber, John D., Marion, IA
3. Elowsky, Earl W., Lowden, IA
4. Baker, Garth L., Wilton, IA
5. Kronen, William H., Monticello, IA
6. Bauer, Mervyn, Latimer, IA
7. Curry, Kenneth, Melcher, IA
8. Manteufel, Thomas, Elma, IA
9. Kramer, Eugene, Waterloo, IA
10. Bickel, Lloyd, Westgate, IA
11. Aurich, Leonard, Williamsburg, IA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Obermueller, Fred, Mrs., Keystone, IA
2. Schoer, Lowell, Iowa City, IA
3. Hinck, Joel, Dewitt, IA
4. Egger, Carl, Muscatine, IA
5. Uden, James L., Earlville, IA
6. Lavrenz, Raymond, Hubbard, IA
7. Maiden, Merle, Marshalltown, IA
8. Bremer, Al, Mason City, IA
9. Fahr, Everett, Waterloo, IA
10. Vandersee, Don, Fayette, IA
11. Schewe, Wilmer, Douds, IA

C. Advisory Pastor

- Metcalf, Max, Iowa City, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

- Haake, Dale L., Latimer, IA

Iowa West District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Goodsman, Ronald, Guthrie Center, IA
2. Schroder, Harold, Perry, IA
3. Heinicke, Edward F., Manning, IA
4. Johnson, Donald, Paullina, IA
5. Ebke, Richard, Council Bluffs, IA
6. Schauer, John, Dow City, IA
7. Backhus, Robert, Carlisle, IA
8. Young, Virtus, Ames, IA
9. Dassow, Garry, Emmetsburg, IA
10. Goehner, Edward C., Fort Dodge, IA
11. Wesenberg, Henry, Fort Dodge, IA
12. Leenerts, Roger W., Battle Creek, IA
13. Resner, Walter A., Kingsley, IA
14. Legee, Robert, Ute, IA
15. Sohn, Paul H., Algona, IA
16. Kayser, Lowell, Sanborn, IA
17. Pannier, Clarence W., Sac City, IA
18. Mueller, Paul C., Sioux City, IA
19. Cashmer, Terry L., Corning, IA
20. Hargreaves, John, Red Oak, IA
21. Flentgen, Ronald, Estherville, IA
22. Maul, Don, Alta, IA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Huff, Don, Anita, IA
2. Ohlmann, Elmer, Boone, IA
3. Popp, Lester, Arcadia, IA
4. Brockman, Charles, Paullina, IA
5. Hanusa, Theodore P., Council Bluffs, IA
6. Marten, Ralph, Denison, IA
7. Heitmann, Paul, Des Moines, IA
8. Bargman, Waldo, Des Moines, IA
9. Kerber, Ken, Cylinder, IA
10. Bowman, Paul, Vincent, IA
11. Jesse, Harold H., Pocahontas, IA
12. Hamann, Don, Anthon, IA
13. Toenjes, Wendell, Le Mars, IA
14. Spiegel, Martin, Charter Oak, IA
15. Boehnke, Carrol, Garner, IA
16. Bobolz, Curtis, Hartley, IA
17. Glasnapp, Roger, Lytton, IA
18. Hoffman, Eugene, Sioux City, IA
19. Queck, Ivan, Fontanelle, IA
20. Leu, Eugene, Malvern, IA
21. Bergman, Irvin, Harris, IA
22. Leimer, Orlando, Albert City, IA

C. Advisory Pastor

- Knuteson, Dale H., Des Moines, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

- Stuhr, Lonnie, Sioux City, IA

Kansas District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Ziegler, Rob M., Atchison, KS
2. Fricke, Ron, Kansas City, KS
3. Frey, John, Prairie Village, KS
4. Eckhardt, Eugene, Topeka, KS
5. Sype, Ken, Iola, KS
6. Thalmann, Darrel, Greenleaf, KS
7. Studtmann, Kenneth, Junction City, KS
8. Deterding, Darold, Salina, KS
9. Trost, Edward, Wichita, KS
10. Miller, Jeffrey, Nashville, KS
11. Rothfuss, F., Philipsburg, KS
12. Dahlke, Victor, Ellinwood, KS
13. Schaedel, Robert, Kingsley, KS

B. Voting Laymen

1. Gerhardt, H., Netawaka, KS
2. Cox, W. F., Kansas City, KS
3. Mausolf, Laverne, Shawnee Mission, KS
4. Schmid, Walt, Topeka, KS
5. Leeseburg, Roger, Independence, KS
6. Koenke, La Vern, Bremen, KS
7. Teske, Ben, Duluth, KS
8. Kohls, Don, Herington, KS
9. Knocke, Erwin, Arkansas City, KS
10. Peitsch, Arthur, Haven, KS
11. Oelke, Victor, Colby, KS
12. Soeken, Ronald, Lorraine, KS
13. Weiss, Earl, Garden City, KS

C. Advisory pastor

- Berner, Ed, Lansing, KS

D. Advisory Teachers

Beckler, Gordon, Topeka, KS
Pitsch, Leland, Alma, KS

Manitoba and Saskatchewan District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Harlos, Allan, Wilkie, Sask., Can.
2. Herrig, David, Melfort, Sask., Can.
3. Borchardt, Paul J., Roblin, Man., Can.
4. Koch, Donald A., Melville, Sask., Can.
5. Ruf, Harold, Regina, Sask., Can.
6. Schienbein, Gerald, Moose Jaw, Sask., Can.
7. Knoernschild, G. E., Winnipeg, Man., Can.

B. Voting Laymen

1. Kendel, D., Saskatoon, Sask., Can.
2. Missfeldt, James, Choceland, Sask., Can.
3. Popowich, D., Churchbridge, Sask., Can.
4. Dyke, Arnold, Rocanville, Sask., Can.
5. Werschler, Kenneth, Regina, Sask., Can.
6. Thiele, John, Sask, Can.
7. Rentz, Emanuel, Winnipeg, Man., Can.

C. Advisory Pastor

Koehler, Walter, Saskatoon, Sask., Can.

Michigan District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Baerwolf, Robert D., Herron, MI
2. Bolling, Richard E., Cheboygan, MI
3. Etzel, Lenhart, Brooklyn, MI
4. Mueller, Norbert H., Ann Arbor, MI
5. Barkow, Roland, Three Rivers, MI
6. Mader, Robert J., Munger, MI
7. Pollatz Sr., Raymond, Oneskama, MI
8. Sippola, J. Wm., Lansing, MI
9. Braun, Alan J., Wayne, MI
10. Stier, Larry, Detroit, MI
11. Trautmann, Karl, Detroit, MI
12. Daniel, Theodore A., Detroit, MI
13. Pool, Charles, Allen Park, MI
14. Rusch, Lowell, Davison, MI
15. Kostizen, Erwin, Clio, MI
16. Cario, Donald A., Flint, MI
17. Krause, Fred, Stanton, MI
18. Krueger, Arthur, Grand Rapids, MI
19. Hoesman, C. William, Holland, MI
20. Schleef, Roger H., Livonia, MI
21. Looker, Charles M., Mount Clemens, MI
22. Thomas, Dale, Utica, MI
23. Henneman, Harry, St. Clair, MI
24. Frieese, Forest F., St. Clair Shores, MI
25. Westphal, Leroy R., Auburn, MI
26. Hafner, Herbert, Milan, MI
27. Hessler, Edward A., Conklin, MI
28. Fischer, Thomas A., Spring Lake, MI
29. Monson, John, Troy, MI
30. Claus, Ralph C., Clarkston, MI
31. Reynolds, Terrence P., Highland, MI
32. Shoemaker, David, Millington, MI
33. Pankow, Edward, Hemlock, MI
34. Wilkins, Fred, Buchanan, MI
35. Kangas, Gene R., Centreville, MI
36. Van Dellen, James, Cass City, MI
37. Hollender, David E., Lexington, MI
38. Biermann, Herbert L., Gladwin, MI
39. Schooler, Eugene, Petoskey, MI
40. Fitz, Edwin V., Traverse City, MI
41. Krupski, Otto F., Lincoln Park, MI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Kranzo, Leslie, Rogers City, MI
2. Brietzke, Robert, Rogers City, MI
3. Kieswetter, Ed., Adrian, MI
4. Steude, William, Ann Arbor, MI
5. Sachtleben, Carl, Paw Paw, MI
6. Neumeyer, Marvin E., Bay City, MI
7. Kayser, Walter, Stanwood, MI
8. LaHaine Sr., Gilbert E., Lansing, MI
9. Kremkow, Edgar, Dearborn, MI
10. Schultz, Carl L., Whitmore Lake, MI
11. Klein, Robert, Detroit, MI
12. Sheldon, Lloyd, Detroit, MI
13. Keaneman, Harvey, Detroit, MI
14. See, Walter, Dryden, MI
15. Dennis, Benjamin, Flint, MI
16. Meier, Fred, Burton, MI

17. Simmons, John, Trufant, MI
18. Reed, Harold, Grand Rapids, MI
19. Zeddes, Charles, Grand Rapids, MI
20. Wiltse, Wayne, Livonia, MI
21. Bassett, Leonard, Fraser, MI
22. Downing, Armand W., Troy, MI
23. Blohm, Clarence W., Marine City, MI
24. Linsdeau, Vernon J., St. Clair Shores, MI
25. Filter, Harold, Midland, MI
26. Secord, Donald, Monroe, MI
27. Block, Sievert, Montague, MI
28. Daren, James F., Muskegon, MI
29. Ranney, Kenneth, Birmingham, MI
30. Misch, Donald, Rochester, MI
31. Reynolds, George, Union Lake, MI
32. Poellet, Clinton, Saginaw, MI
33. Duclos, David, Saginaw, MI
34. Strefling, Walter, Galien, MI
35. Eckhardt, Rodger J., Sturgis, MI
36. Bergman, Hilbert, Sebewaing, MI
37. Eich, William, Harbor Beach, MI
38. Pflieger, Elmer, Oscoda, MI
39. Steinhoff, Donald, Kalkaska, MI
40. Bredehoeft, Merle, Lake Leelanau, MI
41. Jacobs, Theo., Riverview, MI

C. Advisory Pastors

Maier, Paul L., Kalamazoo, MI
Melinat, Theo. C., Bay City, MI
Scheips, Alfred T., Ann Arbor, MI
Schmidt, Ralph G., Northville, MI

D. Advisory Teachers

Dohrmann, Aaron, Reese, MI
Ebert, Dorothy, Roseville, MI
Herrmann, Robert, Detroit, MI
Jagels, Raymond A., Detroit, MI
Kamprath, Ruben F., Southgate, MI
Laeder, Leroy D., Midland, MI
Lehl, Kenneth, Northville, MI
Rathe, Willard W., Mount Clemens, MI
Schmidt, Milton A., St. Joseph, MI
Schroeder, Elvin M., Utica, MI
Schultz, Lloyd N., Detroit, MI
Smith, Dale R., Taylor, MI
Thunder, Keturah, Ann Arbor, MI
Walther, Daniel, Detroit, MI
Wiese, Erwin F., Union Lake, MI
Wolter, Arthur, Lansing, MI
Zehnder, James, Saginaw, MI

Mid-South District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Atsinger, Victor, Kingston, TN
2. Wollenburg, William, Nashville, TN
3. Cherney, Donald, Clarksville, TN
4. Schmid, John, Memphis, TN
5. Herzog, John, Pine Bluff, AR
6. Reese, Herman, Conway, AR
7. Hagemeyer, Fred, Fort Smith, AR

B. Voting Laymen

1. Stecker, Glen, Johnson City, TN
2. Vaughan, G. D., Madison, TN
3. Lueders, Herold, Hardy, AR
4. Brabender, L. A., Memphis, TN
5. Poll, Henry, Gillett, AR
6. Moilanen, Paul, Jacksonville, AR
7. Sanchez, Charles, Rogers, AR

C. Advisory Pastor

Bernthal, Hubert, Fort Smith, AR

D. Advisory Teacher

Weiss, Thomas, Memphis, TN

Minnesota North District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Behling, Edward F., E. Grand Forks, MN
2. Dorn, Victor, Bagley, MN
3. Guehna, Richard L., Perham, MN
4. Luoma, Robert, Sebekka, MN
5. Florip, Philip, Thunder Bay, Ont., Can.
6. Tompkins, Donald, Babbitt, MN
7. Schroeder, Theodore W., Silver Bay, MN
8. Hilpert, Willard, Pequot Lakes, MN
9. Beltz, Walter, St. Cloud, MN

10. Presuhn, Gerald E., Ogilvie, MN
11. Golke, Fred W., Moorhead, MN
12. Ahl, Dennis, Alexandria, MN
13. Sprengeler, W. O., Wheaton, MN
14. Aumann, Robert, Sauk Centre, MN
15. Stockman, William, Benson, MN
16. Urman, Leroy A., Granite Falls, MN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Kiel, Lyle, Crookston, MN
2. Behrens, Arthur, Park Rapids, MN
3. Brase, Arland, Detroit Lakes, MN
4. Lepisto, Russell, New York Mills, MN
5. Frost, Gordon, Kaministiquia, Ont., Can.
6. Oman, Jack, Hoyt Lakes, MN
7. Bittner, Victor, Duluth, MN
8. Lofbeck, Leonard, Brainerd, MN
9. Chesney, Marion, Hillmann, MN
10. Wiechman, Carl, Pine City, MN
11. Lemke, Dennis, Sabin, MN
12. Bartz, Harold, Alexandria, MN
13. Klindt, Melvin, Breckenridge, MN
14. Drevlow, John, Long Prairie, MN
15. Streich, Herbert, Big Stone City, SD
16. Streich, George, Kandiyohi, MN

C. Advisory Pastor

Bode, Reinhold L., Pillager, MN

D. Advisory Teacher

Golnitz, Robert, Long Prairie, MN

Minnesota South District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Schrader, David, Litchfield, MN
2. Fry, Henry, Young America, MN
3. Dressel, Oscar O., St. Louis Park, MN
4. Thaemert, Leonard, Robbinsdale, MN
5. Vogt, G. H., Minneapolis, MN
6. Blumenkamp, Edwin, Glencoe, MN
7. Krause, Martin H., Cottage Grove, MN
8. Stroming, Karl, Prior Lake, MN
9. Zielske, Daniel, St. Paul, MN
10. Pfotenbauer, Paul, St. Paul, MN
11. Lutz, Michael, Jasper, MN
12. Behling, Henry W., Lakefield, MN
13. Kruse, Loren, Alpha, MN
14. Mueller, Randall F., Fairmont, MN
15. Grothe, Jonathan, Rapidan, MN
16. Roth, Victor M., Waterville, MN
17. Markworth, Richard, Truman, MN
18. Hegggen, Michael, Elmore, MN
19. Cloeter, O. H., Faribault, MN
20. Krueger, Kenneth, Winona, MN
21. Schleicher, C. J., Austin, MN
22. Krueger, Raymond A., Rochester, MN
23. Sutterer, Paul, St. Francis, MN
24. Rehwaldt, Edgar, Minneapolis, MN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Hasse, Orville, Annandale, MN
2. Matthias, Alan, Waconia, MN
3. Parlin, Robert, Minneapolis, MN
4. White, Ronald E., Osseo, MN
5. Bostlemann, Allen, Minneapolis, MN
6. Lick, Leo, Gaylord, MN
7. Sell, Elroy, Rosemount, MN
8. Vogt, Dale, Eagan, MN
9. Nuechterlein, Harold, St. Paul, MN
10. Techtman, William, St. Paul, MN
11. Smidt, Alvin, Pipestone, MN
12. Deir, John, Marshall, MN
13. Milbrath, Alexander, Lakefield, MN
14. Hagen, Robert, Dunnell, MN
15. Fitzner, Wilbur, Courtland, MN
16. Mokoff, Henry, Waseca, MN
17. Fitzsimmons, Boyd, Trimount, MN
18. Ahrens, Astrid, Blue Earth, MN
19. Powelson, Paul, Faribault, MN
20. Folkert, Frank, Plainview, MN
21. Wurtz, Alvin, Brownsdale, MN
22. Richardson, Douglas, Spring Valley, MN
23. Austreg, Wayne, Coon Rapids, MN
24. Wheeler, Roger, Minneapolis, MN

C. Advisory Pastor

Zahn, Carleton, Mankato, MN

D. Advisory Teachers

Erdman, Marvin, Ceylon, MN
 Kurth, Florence, Mrs., Bloomington, MN
 Schauland, Ernest, Lewiston, MN
 Versemann, Dennis, Young America, MN

Missouri District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Neumann, W. F., Perryville, MO
2. Weis, Earl E., Jackson, MO
3. Gerken, O. A., Cape Girardeau, MO
4. Lange, Alvin H., Norborne, MO
5. Bringewatt, Ralph A., Fulton, MO
6. Kurth, Homer H., Alma, MO
7. Schumpe, Wayne, Emma, MO
8. Fleischhauer, Harold, Arnold, MO
9. Griesse, Arnold, Lohman, MO
10. Barth, Howard G., Prairie Village, KS
11. Almstedt, Quentin, Liberty, MO
12. Mueller, Ralph, St. Joseph, MO
13. Fiedler, Robert L., Sullivan, MO
14. Stolzenburg, Floyd, St. Charles, MO
15. Hoffmann, Richard, St. Louis, MO
16. Lammert, Edmund, St. Louis, MO
17. Dubberke, Edwin, St. Louis, MO
18. Sasse, Alvin H., Crestwood, MO
19. Friederichs, William J., St. Louis, MO
20. Fehl Jr., William, St. Louis, MO
21. Hoffmann, Walter, St. Louis, MO
22. Christiansen, Donald A., St. Louis, MO
23. Mead, Arden W., St. Louis, MO
24. Wolf, Erhard, Sedalia, MO
25. Lemke, Layton, Lamar, MO
26. Ludwig, Duane, Lebanon, MO
27. Groenke, Lloyd, Beaufort, MO

B. Voting Laymen

1. Hacker, Charles, Perryville, MO
2. Hamm, Donald, Poplar Bluff, MO
3. Kinder, Elroy, Cape Girardeau, MO
4. Gerling, Louis, Carrollton, MO
5. Steinbrueck, Leon, Boonville, MO
6. Dautenhahn, David, Marshall, MO
7. Hollingsworth, Jack, Concordia, MO
8. Houser, Daniel, Arnold, MO
9. Bultmann, Gilbert, Jefferson City, MO
10. Kramer, Herbert F., Lees Summit, MO
11. Shields, Ezra, Wathena, KS
12. Stuhlman, Lynn, Louisiana, MO
13. Schreiber, Darlene, St. Clair, MO
14. Welker, Robert, Wentzville, MO
15. Kooi, William, St. Louis, MO
16. Reed, Gilbert, St. Louis, MO
17. Rau, Martin, St. Louis, MO
18. Rubin, Marilyn, St. Louis, MO
19. Smith, Kenneth K., Ballwin, MO
20. Liekweg Jr., Fred, Florissant, MO
21. Gaertner, Walter, Bridgeton, MO
22. Lemke, Larry A., Florissant, MO
23. Thielker, Armand L., Sunset Hills, MO
24. Harms, Marvin M., Cole Camp, MO
25. Dieckhoff, Paul, Diamond, MO
26. Niewald, Donald, Springfield, MO
27. Finck, Paul, Washington, MO

C. Advisory Pastors

Albrecht, Luther, Ferguson, MO
 Bertram, Robert, St. Louis, MO
 Burow, Daniel, St. Louis, MO
 George, William, St. Louis, MO
 Jungkuntz, Daniel, St. Louis, MO
 Mayer, Herbert, University City, MO
 Mayer, James, St. Louis, MO
 Melendez, Andrew, St. Louis, MO
 Pape, Neil, St. Louis, MO
 Peters, Clarence, St. Louis, MO
 Zorn, Robert, St. Louis, MO

D. Advisory Teachers

Bickel, Eugene M., St. Louis, MO
 Brink, Marvin F., St. Louis, MO
 Dunklau, Esther, Mrs., Kansas City, MO
 Fadler, John F., Rosebud, MO
 Golz, Lester P., Frohna, MO
 Haertling, Lloyd W., St. Louis, MO
 Kasten, Ronald L., Overland, MO
 Melendez, Andrew A., Jefferson City, MO
 Mueller, Erich P., Florissant, MO
 Obst, Paul, Kansas City, MO
 Schmidt, Edward E., St. Louis, MO

Montana District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Pullmann, Albert G., Billings, MT
2. Huber, Harold V., Kalispell, MT
3. Russert, Arlyn A., Sidney, MT
4. Bohlmann, Robert E., Lewistown, MT
5. Wendland, Leland J., Helena, MT

B. Voting Laymen

1. Hafner, Paul, Billings, MT
2. Werdin, David, St. Ignatius, MT
3. Smelzer, Leland, Glasgow, MT
4. Smith, Harry, Great Falls, MT
5. Hedegaard, Ervin, Whitehall, MT

Nebraska District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Kirschenmann, Edgar, Omaha, NE
2. Schmidt, David P., Omaha, NE
3. Kalthoff, Glenn, Fremont, NE
4. Hedemann, Lester E., Wisner, NE
5. Weyland, James D., South Sioux City, NE
6. Davies, Karl, Norfolk, NE
7. Brandt, Maynard, Plainview, NE
8. Gierke, Eugene V., Spencer, NE
9. Bornemann, Martin, Columbus, NE
10. Kluck, Herbert, Arapahoe, NE
11. Cooper, Paul, Wymore, NE
12. Weinrich, Karl C., Tecumseh, NE
13. McLachlan, Ardell, Cairo, NE
14. Harms, Robert W. F., Hastings, NE
15. Hoyer, Martin, Kearney, NE
16. Gruett, M. E., Lincoln, NE
17. Klipp, Walter, McCook, NE
18. Kleopfer, Leland F., York, NE

B. Voting Laymen

1. Wandell, Hugo, Omaha, NE
2. Doerr, Tom, Omaha, NE
3. Hokamp, Albert, Arlington, NE
4. Stigge, Wilbert C., West Point, NE
5. Mann, Frederick H., Wayne, NE
6. Trampe, Fred, Pierce, NE
7. Kuhlman, Delbert, Bloomfield, NE
8. Dramstad, Harry, Jamison, NE
9. Lambrecht, Charles, Schuyler, NE
10. Achterberg, Al, Holdrege, NE
11. Wacker, Leonard, Fairbury, NE
12. Huebner, Harold, Falls City, NE
13. Scheffel, Robert, Grand Island, NE
14. Vortman, Gerald, Carleton, NE
15. Wittig, Donald D., Broken Bow, NE
16. Carstens, George, Lincoln, NE
17. Meints, Don, Culbertson, NE
18. Wiemer, Martin H., Waco, NE

C. Advisory Pastors

Norden, Alvin J., Lincoln, NE
 Thies, Delbert, Omaha, NE

D. Advisory Teachers

Bartels, Lucinda, Seward, NE
 Frank, Donald, Hastings, NE
 Grotelueschen, Edna, Seward, NE
 Mielke, Delores, Seward, NE
 Niermann, Linda, York, NE

New England District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Timm, Lowell J., Lewiston, ME
2. Gall, John D., Lynnfield, MA
3. Jurik, John A., Dedham, MA
4. Kast, Edward L., Belmont, MA
5. Littmann, Paul G., Cranston, RI
6. Villani, Robert E., Holyoke, MA
7. Kuhl, Charles W., Manchester, CT
8. Springer, Delbert, Kensington, CT
9. Benken, F. Richard, Madison, CT
10. Neuchterlein, Louis G., Cheshire, CT
11. Froehlich, Ronald G., Trumbull, CT

B. Voting Laymen

1. Small, C. F., New London, NH
2. Carlson, Elliott, Marblehead, MA
3. Shahbaz, Janine, Hingham, MA

4. Craven, KAY, Sudbury, MA
5. Schur, Walter R., Oxford, MA
6. Welker, Edward P., West Springfield, MA
7. Trask, Owen, Coventry, CT
8. Voll, Eugene, Farmington, CT
9. Greimann, Stanley, Guilford, CT
10. Sonstroem, Jon M., Bristol, CT
11. Schneider, Walter, Wilton, CT

C. Advisory Pastor

Ruppar, William A., Wethersfield, CT

D. Advisory Teacher

Koch, Vernon, Bristol, CT

New Jersey District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Brinkmann, Norman, Westwood, NJ
2. Miller, Richard, Secaucus, NJ
3. Lindner, Ernest, Lyndhurst, NJ
4. Kimpel, Julius, Wayne, NJ
5. Rehwinkel, Eugene A., Westfield, NJ
6. Rudolf, Bruce E., Newton, NJ
7. Wildgrube, Paul F. G., Pennsville, NJ
8. Rehbein, David, Somerset, NJ

B. Voting Laymen

1. Hemmer, Arthur, Dumont, NJ
2. Wittenburg, Joan, Jersey City, NJ
3. Poole, Ronald, Caldwell, NJ
4. Lesh, Ethel, Clifton, NJ
5. Jones, Clayton C., E. Orange, NJ
6. Koslosky, Ed, Bernardsville, NJ
7. Schoenherr, David W., Cherry Hill, NJ
8. Menninger, Richard, East Brunswick, NJ

C. Advisory Pastor

Meyer, Adolf F., Westwood, NJ

D. Advisory Teacher

Borchin, Roger, Woodbridge, NJ

North Dakota District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Schmidt, Neil, Grand Forks, ND
2. Jenks, Kenneth C., Sturum, ND
3. Koehler, Luther A., Lamoure, ND
4. Nichols, Ronald, Cooperstown, ND
5. Brill, Walter, Mandan, ND
6. Allwardt, Theodore E., Garrison, ND
7. Heinert, David W., Devils Lake, ND

B. Voting Laymen

1. Larson, Harold, Fargo, ND
2. Fenske, Harold, Great Bend, ND
3. Olson, Gary, Forbes, ND
4. Groskreutz, Eric, Carrington, ND
5. Albers, Art, Bismarck, ND
6. Kobernick, Walter, Voltaire, ND
7. Hall, Myrlin H., Newberg, ND

C. Advisory Pastor

Tegtmeier, Victor, Grafton, ND

D. Advisory Teacher

Browning, Walfred, Glenburn, ND

North Wisconsin District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Buelow, Leonard P., Green Bay, WI
2. Clausen, Marvin W., Cecil, WI
3. Parsch, Harold, Shawano, WI
4. Kessen, Clifford, Tigerton, WI
5. Aufdemberge, Carl, Kaukauna, WI
6. Klemz, Lyle E., Covington, WI
7. Sprengler, Donald, Antigo, WI
8. Michael, Gerhard C., Merrill, WI
9. Winter, Harold, Wausau, WI
10. Buckman, Robert, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
11. Witte, Clarence, Vesper, WI
12. Fus, Donald W., Bessemer, WI
13. Barg, Edgar, Ladysmith, WI
14. Groenewald, Douglas, Withee, WI
15. Merrell, Gene E., Eau Claire, WI
16. De Loye, Gerald J., Fall Creek, WI
17. Rabe, Clarence, Spooner, WI
18. Hinck, David E., River Falls, WI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Schultz, Lester W., Green Bay, WI
2. Kasten, John, Gillett, WI
3. Busch, Luther, Shawano, WI
4. Wilson, Keith, Antigo, WI
5. Struck, Victor, Manawa, WI
6. Kelto, Rudolph, Munising, WI
7. Hornecker, George, Armstrong Creek, WI
8. Goetsch, Kenneth, Merrill, WI
9. Parsch, Norman, Wausau, WI
10. Thalacker, Harold, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
11. Wolff, Robert, Pittsville, WI
12. Lindquist, Kenneth, Marengo, WI
13. Fleischfresser, Albert, Park Falls, WI
14. Mueller, Ervin, Athens, WI
15. Everson, Don, Altoona, WI
16. Bain, Marshall, Fall Creek, WI
17. Poethke, Donald, Rice Lake, WI
18. Schroeder, Alvin, Emerald, WI

C. Advisory Pastor

Trimberger, Dale, Marshfield, WI

D. Advisory Teachers

Fiene, Jerome, Altoona, WI
Redeker, Walter, Green Bay, WI

Northern Illinois District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Manz, James G., Chicago, IL
2. Krueger, Reinhart J., Chicago, IL
3. Fischer, Hillman, Chicago, IL
4. Bach, James F., Northbrook, IL
5. Kleidon, Norbert, Palatine, IL
6. Trieglaff, Eugene, Roselle, IL
7. Kamphoefner, Robert F., East Dundee, IL
8. Schmidt, Harold W., Genoa, IL
9. Schliepsiek, Richard, Lake Forest, IL
10. Harm, Frederick, Huntley, IL
11. Poole, John, Oak Park, IL
12. Paul, Erwin L., Forest Park, IL
13. Brenner, Donald, Broadview, IL
14. Koeppen, Robert D., Hinsdale, IL
15. Bartling, William, Melrose Park, IL
16. Walker, David, Lombard, IL
17. Weber, Raymond, Warrenville, IL
18. Zielke, Wilbur W., Aurora, IL
19. Rub Jr., Robert H., Rockford, IL
20. Schrader, George A., Freeport, IL
21. Theiss, Norman, Chicago, IL
22. Griffen, William, Chicago, IL
23. Wessler, Raymond, Calumet City, IL
24. Lehenbauer, Osmar, Chicago Heights, IL
25. Weber, Wilbert, Chicago, IL
26. Settlage, Craig, Palos Hills, IL
27. Beuschlein, Carl, Tinley Park, IL
28. Wunderlich, Harold J., Ottawa, IL
29. Mueller Jr., Paul G., Kankakee, IL
30. Meier, W. Wayne, Milford, IL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Soderholm, Paul D., Chicago, IL
2. LePere, Wilbur, Chicago, IL
3. Rempert, Irwin F., Skokie, IL
4. Fox, John R., Deerfield, IL
5. Sternberg, James, Prospect Heights, IL
6. Lucey, Thomas, Addison, IL
7. Block, Wayne, Elgin, IL
8. Junge, Mark C., Creston, IL
9. Kretzmann, Georgine, Libertyville, IL
10. Gerth, Walter, Union, IL
11. Buzzard, Robert, Chicago, IL
12. Christopher, Walter, River Forest, IL
13. Bach, Roland, La Grange, IL
14. Freiburger, Carl P., La Grange, IL
15. Weith, Walter, River Grove, IL
16. Breseman, Robert, Wheaton, IL
17. Schmidt, Waldemar, Naperville, IL
18. Moser, Paul W., Aurora, IL
19. Daucher, Paul, Rockford, IL
20. Dyson, David, Savanna, IL
21. Cosby, Lydell, Chicago, IL
22. Koth, Lois, Chicago, IL
23. Cornwell, Thomas, Chicago, IL
24. Engel, Leroy, Homewood, IL
25. Bohlman, Robert, Willow Springs, IL
26. Campbell, Howard, Alsip, IL
27. Hartwick, Tom, Frankfort, IL
28. May, Mel, Joliet, IL

29. Brands, Arnold, Beecher, IL
30. Balgeman, Gerhardt, Herscher, IL

C. Advisory Pastors

Baumgartner, Erwin J., Frankfort, IL
Dietrich, Adam, Palos Heights, IL
Hartung, Bruce, Evanston, IL
Young, Kenneth, Oak Park, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Becker, Gerhardt, Forest Park, IL
Kroger, David, Rockford, IL
Ford, Warren, Mount Prospect, IL
Fricke, Raymond, Itasca, IL
Gronewold, Harold, Lansing, IL
Koth, Arthur C., Chicago, IL
McGhee, Thomas, Belvidere, IL
Peper, Victor C., Maywood, IL
Sellke, Donald, Chicago, IL
Voss, Donald, Chicago, IL
Waldschmidt, Victor, River Forest, IL

Northwest District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Campbell, David E., Ashland, OR
2. Bauder, Harold J., Springfield, OR
3. Zagel, Ronald N., Newport, OR
4. Harms, David G., Beaverton, OR
5. Faasch, Lawrence E., Vancouver, WA
6. Glaser, Leonard C., Boise, ID
7. Loesel, Andrew E., Idaho Falls, ID
8. Kellerman, Marvin A., Richland, WA
9. Belasic, David S., Spokane, WA
10. Larson, Vincent S., Moses Lake, WA
11. Allen, Richard B., Oak Harbor, WA
12. Borges, Gary F., Port Angeles, WA
13. Martin, Murray W., Mountlake Terrace, WA
14. Bruck, Allan H., Bellevue, WA
15. Schuett, Fred P., Anchorage, AK
16. Wildermuth, Daryl C., Puyallup, WA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Culley, Roy, Eastside, OR
2. Sneva, Forrest, Burns, OR
3. Brandhorst, L. Carl, Monmouth, OR
4. Bartsch, Duane A., Portland, OR
5. Hill, John, McMinnville, OR
6. Campbell, Joseph, Pendleton, OR
7. Schorzman, David, Twin Falls, ID
8. Wischnofski, M., Selah, WA
9. Johnson, Wendell, Spokane, WA
10. Yost, Charles, Republic, WA
11. Fowler, Hugh, Snohomish, WA
12. Welch, Truman, Sequim, WA
13. Huffman, Richard, Edmonds, WA
14. Kauth, Gerald E., Kent, WA
15. Anderson, Milton, Seattle, WA
16. Holtorf, John, Tacoma, WA

C. Advisory Pastors

Brandmire, Wayne H., Yakima, WA
Kunz, Robert E., Vancouver, WA
Zagel, Richard C., Spokane, WA

D. Advisory Teachers

Kamprath, Waldemar R., Seattle, WA
Sharadin, Dolores, Portland, OR

Ohio District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Bickel, Kurt, Convoy, OH
2. Weber, Paul A., Napoleon, OH
3. Mueller, Ronald R., Toledo, OH
4. Schilling, David, Kent, OH
5. McAdoo, Floyd T., Cleveland, OH
6. Marcis, T. Richard, Strongsville, OH
7. Kavasch, Paul, Westlake, OH
8. Brumme, Carl, Elyria, OH
9. Pickett, Arthur, Chagrin Falls, OH
10. Davis, Howard A., Mentor, OH
11. Hullinger, Robert, Cincinnati, OH
12. Vetter, Donald R., Milford Center, OH
13. Duchow, Gilbert, Parkersburg, WV
14. Stanke, Paul W., Dayton, OH

B. Voting Laymen

1. Matthias, Ron, Van Wert, OH
2. Oberhaus, Paul R., Holgate, OH
3. Chovan, Viola, Toledo, OH

4. Ehmann, Carl, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
5. Schafrik, Emil, Cleveland Heights, OH
6. Weidus, Donald, Cleveland, OH
7. Nehrenz, Clyde, Lakewood, OH
8. Cromling, William, Grafton, OH
9. Heuser, Jack, Euclid, OH
10. Tuttle, Paul, Painesville, OH
11. Pleasant III, Albert, Cincinnati, OH
12. Droege, John W., Columbus, OH
13. Meseke, Norman, Ashland, KY
14. Guth, Ralph E., Kettering, OH

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D. Advisory Teachers

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1. Bode, Richard P., Hooker, OK
2. Wade, Kenneth E., Enid, OK
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5. Hummel, Richard P., Tulsa, OK
6. Grob, Edgar D., Oklahoma City, OK

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1. Morley, Robert, Beamsville, Ont., Can.
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1. Daniel, John L., Emmaus, PA
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10. Harms, Clemens E., Sioux Falls, SD

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1. Driscoll, Dean, Aberdeen, SD
2. Larson, Hugo, Watertown, SD
3. Borchard, Dale, Redfield, SD
4. Bich, Lyman, Cavour, SD
5. Hueners, Royce, Madison, SD
6. Schleusener, Richard, Rapid City, SD
7. Schaefer, James, Kennebec, SD
8. Miller, Walter, Plankinton, SD
9. Mueller, Paul J., Menno, SD
10. Bittner, Oscar, Sioux Falls, SD

C. Advisory Pastor

Zeh, Rick T., Sioux Falls, SD

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1. Kowert, Frederick A., Oak Creek, WI
2. Musser, Richard P., Elm Grove, WI
3. Hargens, Moritz K., Milwaukee, WI
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5. Lemke, Ervin R., Milwaukee, WI
6. Selle, Victor M., Milwaukee, WI
7. Mueller, Elmer E., Milwaukee, WI
8. Bernhardt, Robert H., Mequon, WI
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14. Goldberg, Martin W., Ripon, WI
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16. Pingel, John E., Loganville, WI
17. Hafner, Roland L., Arlington, WI
18. Hermann, David R., Clinton, WI
19. Meyer, Jerome H., Hanover, WI
20. Chaveriat, Charles H., Racine, WI
21. Mueller Sr., Martin H., Waterford, WI
22. Davis, John A., Hartland, WI
23. Grothe, A. Frederick, Reeseville, WI
24. Miskimen, Robert I., Horicon, WI

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17. Muenkel, Harold O., Madison, WI
18. Brauer, Robert, Delavan, WI
19. Mann, Ralph A., Janesville, WI
20. Schwandt, Paul, Racine, WI
21. Crown, Terry, Union Grove, WI
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23. Lorenz, Martin, Watertown, WI
24. Metke, Lyall, Mayville, WI

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Winterstein, George, Milwaukee, WI
Zehnder, James P., Menomonee Falls, WI

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Haas, Walter D., Milwaukee, WI
Laesch, Roger C., Wauwatosa, WI
Leitzke, Martin W., Horicon, WI
Preuss, Arthur L., Racine, WI
Saeger, Lyle W., Wauwatosa, WI
Storm, Robert W., Hales Corners, WI

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1. Morthole, Donald G., Seaford, DE

2. Burk, Stewart, Phoenix, MD
3. Schoenfuhs, Walter P., Baltimore, MD
4. Stilwell, S. J., Crofton, MD
5. Bielenberg, Albert E., Baltimore, MD
6. Zeitler, Lester, Bethesda, MD
7. Beachboard, Kenneth, Bowie, MD
8. Herman, Darwin, Temple Hills, MD
9. Wiechmann, Ralph E., Springfield, VA
10. Roseman, James N., Richmond, VA
11. McCall, David O., Burlington, NC
12. Heins, Paul C., Norfolk, VA
13. Nelson, Darrell P., Durham, NC
14. Roth, Delbert R., Conover, NC
15. Witt, Raymond H., Hickory, NC
16. Koehneke, Richard M., Kannapolis, NC

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1. Goyda, Nancy, Newark, DE
2. Gerlach, Edgar, Baltimore, MD
3. Dausch, Michael J., Baltimore, MD
4. Piper, Homer, Millersville, MD
5. Solheim, Keith, Baltimore, MD
6. DeYoung, Kenneth, Rockville, MD
7. Krueger, Donald, Hyattsville, MD
8. Burgess, George A., Dahlgren, VA
9. Brodowski, William, Alexandria, VA
10. Francis, Len, Ashland, VA
11. Kupke, Donald, Keswick, VA
12. McHenry, Roy B., Norfolk, VA
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14. Isenhour, W. S., Conover, NC
15. Isenhower, Joe A., Hickory, NC
16. Schultz, Robert, Camden, SC

C. Advisory Pastors

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Hohenstein, Raymond C., Bethesda, MD

D. Advisory Teachers

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Schnackenberg, Melvin P., Silver Spring, MD
Zielske, Edwin E., Baltimore, MD

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1. Schuetz, Thomas, New Orleans, LA
2. Rongstad, L. James, Gretna, LA
3. Moritz, Victor, New Orleans, LA
4. Scheer, Raymond, Covington, LA
5. Kunz, S. J., Bossier City, LA
6. Wiese, Ronald J., Meridian, MS
7. Ansoerge, Bernard H., Huntsville, AL
8. Blackwell, Michael, Birmingham, AL
9. Marshall, Frank, Kimbrough, AL
10. Wuerffel, Jon L., Pensacola, FL
11. Clark, Moses, Atmore, AL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Robinson, George, New Orleans, LA
2. Mattson, Lester, Gray, LA
3. Macke, Alvin, New Orleans, LA
4. Thrasher, Donald, Baton Rouge, LA
5. Sorenson, James E., Bossier City, LA
6. Adams, John Quincy, Jackson, MS
7. Angelle, Clarence, Jacksonville, AL
8. Hulberg, Bruce, Birmingham, AL
9. Twiss, Coit F., Montgomery, AL
10. Snell, Fred, Panama City, FL
11. Anderson, Herbert H., Lillian, AL

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Miller, George, Pensacola, FL

D. Advisory Teacher

McCain, Paul, Warrington, FL

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2. Priesz, Paul A., Canoga Park, CA
3. Williams, Ronald E., Burbank, CA
4. Sauer, John, Glendale, CA
5. Clawson, Ronald A., Los Angeles, CA
6. Schmeling, William A., Los Angeles, CA
7. Schulz, Reinhardt E., Temple City, CA
8. Poerschke, James P., La Mirada, CA
9. Boxdorfer, Elmer C. J., Maywood, CA
10. Bentz, Robert W., Long Beach, CA

11. Rosnau, Paul, Hacienda Heights, CA
12. Gehlhar, Philip C., Westminster, CA
13. Kusel, Ronald J., Fullerton, CA
14. Giese, Burton F., Mission Viejo, CA
15. Paulus, Eugene R., Redlands, CA
16. Molnar, Kenneth R., Ontario, CA
17. Dannenberg, Donald, Nuevo, CA
18. Glade, Wilfred W., Holtville, CA
19. Lemke, Roland K., Barstow, CA
20. Huber, John G., La Jolla, CA
21. Brandt, Robert A., Spring Valley, CA
22. Cluver, Steven, Phoenix, AZ
23. Westcott Jr., Edward A., Scottsdale, AZ
24. Gebauer, Ethan, Las Vegas, NV

B. Voting Laymen

1. Steinert, Leary, Santa Barbara, CA
2. Fickenscher, Edgar, Canyon Country, CA
3. Laufer Sr., Edward, Arleta, CA
4. Maas, John D., Los Angeles, CA
5. Steinhauer, Mary, Hawthorne, CA
6. Wahla, Jerry, Carson, CA
7. Beckstrom, Robert, Glendora, CA
8. Boehmke, William R., La Mirada, CA
9. Randal, C. Jack, Cerritos, CA
10. Lanstra, Judi, Long Beach, CA
11. Knop, Louis, Glendora, CA
12. Moodie, Keith E., Santa Ana, CA
13. Duvall, Harry, Anaheim, CA
14. Bailey, J., Huntington Beach, CA
15. Kaeding, Herbert E., Fontana, CA
16. Otto, Walter, Diamond Bar, CA
17. Hibier, Rodney, Riverside, CA
18. Lea, William A., Banning, CA
19. Solberg, William, Lancaster, CA
20. Kreidt, Robert H., San Diego, CA
21. Engler, Donald, Chula Vista, CA
22. Mohrman, Ed, Glendale, AZ
23. Shields, Ivan, Tempe, AZ
24. Mayer, Jan, Boulder City, NV

C. Advisory Pastors

Martin, Ronald L., Orange, CA
Stephan, Curtis, Venice, CA

D. Advisory Teachers

Knigge, Walter, Anaheim, CA
Mornor, Donald, Tustin, CA
Neben, Elden, Orange, CA
Schaus, Marvin, Pomona, CA
Schlieske, Milfred, Anaheim, CA

Southern Illinois District**A. Voting Pastors**

1. Maltz, Myron, Litchfield, IL
2. Peckman, Henry, Bunker Hill, IL
3. Busarow, Gilbert, Collinsville, IL
4. Wyneken, Alan A., Belleville, IL
5. Myers, John, Okawville, IL
6. Ranta, W. Arnold, Chester, IL
7. Novak, Robert, Olmsted, IL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Hagemeyer, Oran, Nokomis, IL
2. Brueckner, Miles, Godfrey, IL
3. Wessel, Elmer, Collinsville, IL
4. Studtmann, Ronald M., Belleville, IL
5. Weeke, Lawrence, Addieville, IL
6. Hammel, Walter, Sparta, IL
7. Bauer, Norman, Anna, IL

C. Advisory Pastor

Pera, Marcus D., Edwardsville, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Freudenberg, Victor, Belleville, IL
Rohmaller, Duane, Collinsville, IL

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1. Melber, David, Canyon, TX
2. Kelm, A. Dean, Odessa, TX
3. Wuensche, Albert, Hamilton, TX
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5. Miller, John H., Euless, TX
6. Appel, Vernon, Thorndale, TX
7. Meissner, Harold, Dallas, TX
8. Meyer, Virgil, Richardson, TX

9. Wageman, Harold, Kilgore, TX
10. Rathgeber, Douglas, Beaumont, TX
11. Fickenscher, G. W., Houston, TX
12. Oesch, Eugene, Houston, TX
13. Dube, Walter, Lamarque, TX
14. Brand, Adolph A., Lagrange, TX
15. Krugler, Emil F., Giddings, TX
16. Wagner, Eric, San Antonio, TX
17. Stoll, Roy, Mercedes, TX
18. Bielefeldt, Carl, Alice, TX

B. Voting Laymen

1. Herm, Howard, Amarillo, TX
2. Wuensche, James E., Wilson, TX
3. Rhode, Edgar, Copperas Cove, TX
4. Denzer, Frank, Abilene, TX
5. Engelman, Milburn, Euless, TX
6. Werner, Elmer, Mart, TX
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8. Kunkel, M. D., Texarkana, TX
9. Boehm Sr., Henry, Brenham, TX

10. Klein, Howard H., Tomball, TX
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12. Balke, Ernest, Houston, TX
13. Simonsen, Winston, Houston, TX
14. Koop, Frances, Edna, TX
15. Sachtleben, Roy, Austin, TX
16. Moye, Donald, San Antonio, TX
17. Morris, Delbert, Harlingen, TX
18. Roth, Robert, Robstown, TX

C. Advisory Pastors

- Beck, Hubert, College Station, TX
 Born, Charles, Austin, TX
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D. Advisory Teachers

- Braun, Ruth, Dallas, TX
 Clasen, Norman, Dallas, TX
 Nitz, Robert, Spring, TX
 Pipho, Gerhardt E., Houston, TX
 Schuetze, Howard, San Antonio, TX

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2. Schubarth, George, Torrington, WY
3. Anderson, B. L., Lusk, WY
4. Brown, J. Barclay, Casper, WY
5. Oberheu, Robert C., Riverton, WY
6. Schmidt, Edward A., Laramie, WY

B. Voting Laymen

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2. Lase, Herb, Morrill, NE
3. Mischnick, R., Alliance, NE
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6. Maggio, Al, Kemmerer, WY

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Barth, Karl L.
Eggold, Henry J.
Hopmann, Roland A.
Huth, Harry A.
Tanger, Philip J.
Tepker, Howard

Staff
Nafzger, Samuel H.

Commission on Worship

Commission
Peterson, Paul K.

Staff
DeLaney, E. Theo.

Committee for Convention Nominations

Committee
Busch, Kenneth R.
Duensing, Elden F.
Elowsky, Lowell
Fitz, Albert H.
Heilman, Mark L.
Joeckel, Raymond
Kercher, Conrad J.
Krueger, Willard L.
Ludwig, William E.
Nieting, Ellis
Quill, Grant
Reiss, Harold
Schaefer, Weldon K.
Schlecht, Richard L.
Shepherd, Frederick W.
Stanfel, A. J.
Zehnder, George F.

Commission on Constitutional Matters

Commission
Freise, Herbert H.
Klotz, John
Eberhard, Carl A.
Mueller, Herbert
Prevallet, Donald

Board of Appeals

Board
Haessler, George W.
Poellot, Daniel

Commission on Adjudication

Bellamy, Lavern R., Holdrege, NE
Doggett, Robert I., Cincinnati, OH

Synodical Service Commission

Commission
Selle, Victor M.

Board of Doctrinal Review

Board
Klann, Richard

Board for Missions

Board
Hintze, Otto C.
Werning, Waldo J.
Staff
Barry, Alvin L.
Heerboth, Paul, M.
Koppelman, Herman H.

Board for Evangelism**Board**

Graf, Arthur E.

Staff

Kolb, Erwin J.

Board for Church Extension**Board**Hast, Herbert H.
Hinrichs, Vance H.**Staff**Haake, Arthur C.
Lietz, Fred E.**Council for Christian Medical Work****Council**

Theimer, Louis M.

**Board of Social Ministry
and World Relief****Board**

Zehnder, Thomas R.

StaffWeber, Leslie F.
Witt, Melvin E.**Armed Forces Commission****Commission**

Kuhn, Gerald E.

Staff

Ernstmeyer, Milton S.

Board for Higher Education**Board**Brackebusch, Arthur P.
Niemoeller, Lewis C.**Staff**Ahlschwede, Arthur M.
Schulz, Delphin L.**Colloquy Committees**

Preus, Robert D.

Board for Lay Ministers

Korth, Dale

Board of Parish Education**Board**Dobberfuhr, Walter F.
Bleke, Walter**Staff**Constien, Victor
Gaulke, Earl
Kieschnick, Melvin M.
Pallmeyer, Paul
Senske, Al H.**Board of Youth Ministry****Board**Phillips, Margo
Stelmachowicz, Michael J.**Staff**Dammann, Dean
Eggers, Ben**Commission on Architecture****Commission**

Haertling, Charles A.

**Commission for Services
to the Mentally Retarded****Commission**

Hillmann, Paul L.

Staff

Nelson, Marshall R.

Board for Public Relations**Board**

Rickman, Victor C.

Staff

Bryant, Victor M.

**Editorial Commission
for Official Periodicals****Commission**

Wittmer, George W.

StaffStarr, Frank D.
Weisheit, Eldon**Board for Lutheran Television****Staff**Albrecht, Ardon D.
Neeb, Martin J. Jr.**Board for Lutheran Radio****Board**

Zimmermann, Roger

Staff

Devantier, Paul W.

**Concordia Publishing House
Board of Directors****Board**Langholz, Gilbert C.
Linnemann, Arthur L.**Staff**

Reinke, Ralph L.

Commission on Church Literature**Commission**

Rosin, Wilbert H.

Board of Stewardship**Board**Demske, Robert M.
Mendelman, G. Holmes**Staff**Bieber, Alfred
Soeldner, O. Arnold**Board of Trustees for Trust Funds****Board**

Petering, Ralph E.

**Board of Trustees for the
Lutheran Church—Missouri
Synod Foundation****Board**Ruprecht, Mrs. E. H.
Schramm, Gustav C.**Staff**Dorn, Otto A.
Heino, Jacob David**Commission on Ministerial Health
Personnel**

Barge, William J.

Legal Counselor

Draheim, Philip E.

**Board of Managers
Worker Benefit Plans****Board**

Kasch, Edward G.

StaffHaake, Earl E.
Wahlers, L. F.**Concordia Historical Institute****Board**

Kramer, Gerhardt

Staff

Suellflow, Aug. R.

President's Office

Preus, J. A. O.

Staff

Sauer, Robert C.

Secretary's OfficeMueller, Herbert
Rosin, Walter L.**Treasurer's Office**Carpenter, Milton
Sell, Norman D.**Controller's Office**Barrioz, Edward C.
Rauscher, Raymond C.**Convention Manager**

Barge, William J.

ParliamentariansSteege, Mark
Stickel, Mabel**OFFICIAL DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVES****Alberta and British Columbia District**

Gierach, Lester, Edmonton, Alta.

Atlantic DistrictEngbrecht, Richard H., Glen Cove, NY
Hinsch, John C., Plainview, NY**Brazil District**

Sonntag, Victor, RS, Brazil

California and Nevada DistrictHartkopf, Walter, San Bruno, CA
Hough, Rolf, San Francisco, CA**Central Illinois District**

Rottmann, Ellis, Springfield, IL

Colorado DistrictWesch, Gustav W., Wheat Ridge, CO
Wessler, Arnold A., Littleton, CO**Eastern District**Kromphardt, Arnold E., Buffalo, NY
Kuhn, Wesley J., Buffalo, NY**English District**Ellwanger, David, Chicago, IL
Frey, Bertwin L., Fairview Park, OH**Florida-Georgia District**Frenk, Erdmann A., Longwood, FL
Trinklein, Edgar A., Marietta, GA**Indiana District**Biester, D. W., Tipton, IN
Meyer, Edward A., La Porte, IN**Iowa East District**Muhlenbruch, Marvin, Williamsburg, IA
Studtmann, Martin P., Cedar Rapids, IA**Iowa West District**

Wright, William R., Fort Dodge, IA

Kansas DistrictBruening, George, Larned, KS
Pullman, Martin, Winfield, KS**Michigan District**Allwardt, Howard G., Birmingham, MI
Reimann, Frederick, Ludington, MI

Mid-South District

Buuck, Leroy, Chattanooga, TN
Groteluschen, Norman, Memphis, TN

Minnesota North District

Franzmeier, Wilbur C., Sauk Rapids, MN
Uhrinak, J. S., Brainerd, MN

Minnesota South District

Crippen, Gary, Worthington, MN
Michael, Gerhard, Howard Lake, MN

Missouri District

Biesenthal, LeRoy W., St. Louis, MO
Strege, Arthur H., Hazelwood, MO

Nebraska District

Heinicke, Iddo, Seward, NE
Tewes, Wilbur, Seward, NE

New England District

Fiehler, Daniel G., Suffield, CT
Haffenreffer, John M., Boston, MA

New Jersey District

Jorcke, Frank P., Howell, NJ
Schreiber, Vernon R., Union, NJ

North Dakota District

Sincebaugh, Norman C., Fargo, ND

North Wisconsin District

Israel, John, Tomahawk, WI
Zarnke, Norman, Wausau, WI

Northern Illinois District

Fisher, Walter F., Elmhurst, IL

Northwest District

Schroeder, Delbert C., Portland, OR
Irwin, Martin R., Vancouver, WA

Ohio District

Kane, Ewald, Bay Village, OH
Stohs, Leonard, Cleveland, OH

SELC District

Bajus, Luther, Norridge, IL
Kucharik, John, Oviedo, FL

South Wisconsin District

Suelflow, Edwin S., Milwaukee, WI
Wangerin, Harvey W., Milwaukee, WI

Southeastern District

Saylor, Leroy C., Raleigh, NC
Wolf, Lester A., Winston Salem, NC

Southern District

Lieske, H. William, New Orleans, LA
Wedig, William F., New Orleans, LA

Southern California District

Tietjen, Harold B., Monterey Park, CA
Waech, Oswald A., Los Alamitos, CA

Southern Illinois District

Harms, Elvin, Belleville, IL
Kollmann, Alvin V., Collinsville, IL

Texas District

O'Shoney, Glenn, Austin, TX
Schkade, Ray, Austin, TX

Wyoming District

Obermueller, N., Worland, WY

OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES

Bartling, L. Paul, Korea
Block, David L., Philippines
Borchard, Terrance H., New Guinea
Coates, Thomas, Hong Kong
Himmeler, Art, Hong Kong
Horn, Clifford W., Japan
Johnstone, Douglas V., Venezuela
Londenberg, David, Philippines
Muench, Paul, New Guinea
Silzer, Mark, Hong Kong
Winter, Clifford, Taiwan
Zorn, Herbert, India

C. Special Representatives**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

(Reporting to Convention)

Black Centennial Committee

Dickinson, Richard C., Chicago, IL
Hunt, P. R., Selma, AL

Committee for Reorganization

Olsen, Harold, Springfield, IL

Committee on LCMS—ALC Fellowship

Warneck, Richard H., St. Louis, MO

Convention Format Committee

Beardsley, Ronald L., Monroe, MI
Wismar, Gregory J., Naugatuck, CT

Nomination and Election Procedures

Mennicke, August T., Brainerd, MN

Task Force on Higher Education

Humann, Roger J., St. Catharines, Ont.
Von Stroh, Gordon E., Denver, CO
Wessler, Martin F., Greendale, WI

Commission on World Hunger

Poch, Martin C., Virginia Beach, VA

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES**ABC District**

Schultz, Maxine, Wembley, Alta.

Atlantic District

Koehler, David, Poughkeepsie, NY
Lesslie, Timothy, Amityville, NY

California and Nevada District

Coffman, Dave, San Jose, CA
Sinnott, Lynn, San Francisco, CA

Colorado District

Ambrosio, Del, Lakewood, CO
Cattau, Mary, Denver, CO

Eastern District

Nolte, Monica, Philadelphia, PA

English District

Holub, Thomas, Arlington Heights, IL
Edyburn, David, Villa Park, IL

Florida-Georgia District

Kamrath, Cincy, Nassau, BI
Lemley, Allen, Melbourne, FL

Iowa East District

Holmstrom, Marta, Clinton, IA
Kruse, Sandra, Iowa City, IA

Kansas District

Stone, Robert, Kansas City, KS

Michigan District

Madigan, Diana, Bay City, MI
Zeile, Richard, Highland Park, MI

Minnesota North District

Huso, Kari, Brainerd, MN
Sellent, Carl, Sabin, MN

Missouri District

Bean, Joe, Lamar, MO
Lesser, Karen L., St. Louis, MO

Nebraska District

Schleifer, Wes, Chester, NE
Wilkins, Lona, Grand Island, NE

Northern Illinois District

Bresemann, Kim, Wheaton, IL

Northwest District

Allsberry, Greg, Pocatello, ID
Kramer, Don Jr., Hillsboro, OR

Ohio District

Nemec, Debbe, Garfield Heights, OH
Wright, Steve, Cincinnati, OH

Oklahoma District

Luetjen, Karen, Tulsa, OK
Hodgkins, Bill, Altus, OK

SELC District

Sadlon, James, St. Louis, MO
Telloni, John, Springfield, IL

South Dakota District

Nelsen, Karen, Aberdeen, SD

South Wisconsin District

Barth, Kurt, Wauwatosa, WI
Goldberg, Kim, Ripon, WI

Southeastern District

Napier, Paul F., Adelphi, MD

Southern California District

Tornow, Mark, Costa Mesa, CA
Tsutsui, Julie, Los Angeles, CA

Southern Illinois District

Steffen, Tom, Greenville, IL
Twenhafel, Kathy, Mascoutah, IL

Texas District

Clasen, Greg, Dallas, TX
Stoebel, Joann, Cisco, TX

Wyoming District

Meisner, Roland

STUDENT BODY REPRESENTATIVES

(Guests)

Ann Arbor

Knapp, Timothy D.

Austin

Ferrin, Robert

Concordia

Lietke, Ronald

Fort Wayne

Heider, George C. III

Portland

Wegner, Mark

River Forest

Gillingham, Don

St. Louis

Prust, David M.

Springfield

Dargatz, Robert

Tabular Survey

Synodical District	Delegates Present							Delegates Absent						
	Voting			Advisory				Voting		Advisory				
	Pastors	Laymen	Totals	Pres. and Brd. Dir.	Pastors	Teachers	Totals	Pastors	Laymen	Pastors	Teachers	Others	Total	
Atlantic.....	14	14	28	3	3	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
California and Nevada.....	18	18	36	3	2	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
California, Southern.....	24	24	48	3	2	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado.....	10	10	20	3	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern.....	16	16	32	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
English.....	23	23	46	3	5	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida-Georgia.....	13	13	26	3	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois, Central.....	12	12	24	2	1	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois, Northern.....	30	30	60	2	4	11	17	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Illinois, Southern.....	7	7	14	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana.....	20	20	40	3	2	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa East.....	11	11	22	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa West.....	22	22	44	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas.....	13	13	26	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan.....	41	41	82	3	4	17	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid-South.....	7	7	14	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota North.....	16	16	32	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota South.....	24	24	48	3	1	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri.....	27	27	54	3	10	11	24	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Montana.....	5	5	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska.....	18	18	36	3	2	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New England.....	11	11	22	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey.....	8	8	16	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Dakota.....	7	7	14	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest.....	16	16	32	3	3	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio.....	14	14	28	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma.....	6	6	12	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SELC.....	3	3	6	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
South Dakota.....	10	10	20	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southeastern.....	16	16	32	3	2	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern.....	11	11	22	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas.....	18	18	36	3	3	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin, North.....	18	18	36	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin, South.....	24	24	48	3	3	7	13	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Wyoming.....	6	6	12	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alberta and British Columbia.....	7	7	14	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manitoba and Saskatchewan.....	7	7	14	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario.....	6	6	12	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argentina.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Brazil.....	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Boards and Commissions.....							110							
General Officials.....							17							
Boards of Control.....							16							
Faculty Members.....							49							
Overseas Missionaries.....							12							
Totals.....	559	559	1118	101	68	119	492	0	0	0	3	8	11	2
Ad Hoc Committees.....	9											2	0	0
District Youth Representatives.....	43											0	0	0
Student Body Representatives.....	8											0	0	0

Comparative Figures

	1967	1969	1971	1973	1975
Voting Delegates Present.....	875	993	1,020	1,075	1,118
Advisory Delegates Present.....	508	558	546	500	492
Total Delegates Present.....	1,383	1,551	1,566	1,575	1,610

CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES

Key to Abbreviations

C — Chairman
P — Pastors

L — Laymen
T — Teachers

Pr — Professors

Committee 1—EVANGELISM

C: C. Mueller (SE)

P: R. Buchman (Ea), M. Gundermann (CN), E. Hessler (Mc), J. Hoppes (In), A. Kelm (Tx), W. Meyer (Co), H. Neunaber (SI), R. Ressmeyer (At), E. Westcott (SC)

T: M. Erdman (Mns), J. Zehnder (Mc)

Pr: K. Heinitz (NI)

L: R. Brauer (SW), G. Frost (MnN), M. Hall (ND), T. Naumann (FG), D. Scharzman (NW), J. Sorensen (So), L. Stuhlman (Mo), N. Zarnke (NW)

Committee 2—MISSIONS

C: R. Schlecht (Mc)

P: W. Bartling (NI), R. Bauer (CN), P. Borchardt (MS), H. Brockhoff (Ok), W. Fehl (Mo.), J. Gedrat (Br), O. Gerken (Mo), W. Griffen (NI), P. Jung (En), A. Melendez (Mo), W. Michalk (FG), C. Pannier (IW), A. Pullman (Mt), H. Schroeder (At), A. Stanfel (On), E. Suelfow (SW), L. Thiemert (MnS), J. Uhrinak (MnN), O. Waech (SC)

T: R. Carpenter (SW), V. Koch (NE)

Pr: G. Meyer (MnS)

L: A. Achterberg (Ne), J. Breznen (SELC), W. Cromling (Oh), R. Eckhardt (Mc), C. Egger (IE), W. Isenhour (SE), W. Schmid (Ks), F. Sneva (NW), J. Sternberg (NI)

Committee 3 THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

C: A. Mennicke (MnN)

P: R. Flentgen (IW), M. Hoyer (Ne), R. Jordan (SW), J. Kimpel (NJ), R. Knoll (On), R. Koeppen (NI), A. Kuehnert (CI), J. Lavalais (Ea), T. Manteufel (IE), R. Martin (SC), N. Mueller (Mc), H. Nierman (Wy), E. Oesch (Tx), H. Peckman (SI), E. Rehwalder (MnS), N. Schmidt (ND), M. Taddey (CN), R. Wiechmann (SE), A. Ziegler (Oh)

T: R. Kasten (Mo), C. Moser (FG)

Pr: D. Scaer (CI), N. Wangerin (SW)

L: R. Culley (Nw), O. Hagemeier (SI), G. LaHaine (Mc), J. Metzger (AB), P. Mueller (SD), L. Roellig (En), J. Shahbaz (NE), I. Shields (SC), G. Stecker (MdS), V. Struck (NW), W. Tesch (SW)

Committee 4—ADMINISTRATION

C: E. Zimmermann (In)

P: G. Baker (IE), L. Behnken (FG), H. Fry (MnS), L. Glaser (NW), R. Guehna (MnN), O. Lehenbauer (NI), E. Lemke (SW), Edgar J. Otto (CI), A. Reimnitz (ND), H. Simon (NW)

T: R. Jagels (Mc), T. Kent (Ks)

Pr: E. von Fange (Mc)

L: E. Asmundsen (AB), L. Bassett (Mc), J. Haffenreffer (NE), F. Heintz (Ea), G. Hornecker (NW), R. Marten (IW), W. Miller (SD), A. Nordstrom (At), J. Pfothner (CN), R. Skov (Co)

Committee 5 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

C: E. Happel (NI)

P: H. Allwardt (Mc), K. Bickel (Oh), W. Franzmeier (MnN), R. Kamphoefner (NI), M. Lieske (MnS), S. Redenbach (AB), G. Wollenburg (Mt)

Pr: L. Brighton (Mo)

L: W. Bargman (IW), A. Brune (Ea), A. Erzkus (En), J. Haar (SD), D. Hamm (Mo), J. Schuett (CI)

Committee 6 HIGHER EDUCATION

C: E. Nieting (IW)

P: K. Barth (SW), L. Knief (CI), W. Koenig (Ea), T. Koepke (En), J. Manz (NI), F. Marshall (So), E. Matthias (SC), W. Niederbach (In), A. Norden (Ne), O. Oberheu (Wy), H. Parsch (NW), M. Pullman (Ks), F. Stolzenburg (Mo), P. Sutterer (MnS), E. Weis (Mo), W. Zeile (NJ)

T: E. Aufdemberge (At), L. Saeger (SW), E. Zielske (SE)

L: V. Bittner (MnN), S. Block (Mc), W. Block (NI), R. Fickenscher (CN), H. Holder (On), P. Kapfer (Co), H. Klein (Tx), R. Murphy (In), C. Randel (SC), L. Schoer (IE), R. Stieve (At)

Committee 7—PARISH SERVICES

C: W. Griesse (MdS)

P: K. Beachboard (SE), C. Bielefeldt (Tx), A. Bruns (Ks), O. Cloeter (MnS), J. Ellermann (So), H. Frincke (Ea), A. Kelly (FG), C. Korte (SD), F. Kowert (SW), N. Laesch (En), D. Pohlars (In), E. Rehwinkel (NJ), H. Tietjen (CN)

T: T. McGhee (NI), E. Schroeder (Mc), R. Steinbruck (At), L. Stuhr (IW), W. Wright (IW)

Pr: C. Christian (Ne), E. Lietke (Mo)

L: L. Anderson (CN), B. Bartsch (Nw), A. Behrens (MnN), M. Dausch (SE), P. Dieckhoff (Mo), H. Hasenstein (SW), C. Kriegel (Tx), E. Rentz (MS)

Committee 8—SOCIAL MINISTRY

C: G. Rode (AB)

P: B. Barnes (Co), A. Crosmer (SD), P. Jacobs (CN), E. Jaech (Nw), N. Kabelitz (Ok), R. Leenerts (IW), F. McAdoo (Oh), D. Shoemaker (Mc)

T: J. Fiene (NW), E. Schauland (MnS)

Pr: R. Shuta (Ne)

L: D. Brinkman (Ea), B. Dennis (Mc), H. Kendt (At), E. Laufer (SC), E. Lesh (NJ), M. May (NI), A. Pleasant (Oh), M. Rubin (Mo)

Committee 9 SPECIAL AND SUNDRY MATTERS

C: F. Niedner (Ne)

P: G. DeLoy (NW), H. Hecht (En), R. Markworth (MnS), R. Riedel (NE), K. Trautman (Mc), R. Wessler (NI)

T: H. Hebel (CN), E. Mueller (Mo)

L: H. Christian (Ea), E. Hoffman (IW), F. Mann (Ne), G. Robinson (So)

Committee 10—NOMINATIONS

C: C. Kercher (Wy)

P: M. Heilman (Ea), W. Krueger (SW), E. Vieting (IW), G. Quill (SW), H. Reiss (Co), R. Schlecht (Mc), A. Stanfel (On)

T: E. Duensing (Ne), A. Fitz (AB), W. Ludwig (Mt), G. Zehnder (Tx)

L: K. Busch (MnS), L. Elowsky (Mc), R. Joeckel (Co), W. Schaefer (In), F. Shepherd (Co)

Committee 11—ELECTIONS

C: A. Marcis (SELC)

P: G. Busarow (SI), H. Deterding (Ks), P. Fry (MS)

T: R. Daenzer (En), R. Dey (En), R. Kamprath (Mc), K. Lehl (Mc), M. Zehnder (Oh)

L: R. Kutansky (In), A. Maggio (Wy)

Committee 12 REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

C: J. Zimmermann (IE)

P: P. Kavash (Oh), A. Kuntz (SC), C. Looker (Mc)

T: R. Nitz (Tx)

L: L. Schultz (NW), W. Techtman (MnS), F. Trampe (Ne)

Committee 13 WORK PROGRAM REVIEW

C: E. Zimmermann (In)

P: G. Baker (IE), L. Behnken (FG), H. Fry (MnS), L. Glaser (NW), R. Guehna (MnN), O. Lehenbauer (NI), E. Lemke (SW), Edgar J. Otto (CI), A. Reimnitz (ND), H. Simon (NW)

T: R. Jagels (Mc), T. Kent (Ks)

Pr: E. von Fange (Mc)

L: E. Asmundsen (AB), L. Bassett (Mc), J. Haffenreffer (NE), F. Heintz (Ea), G. Hornecker (NW), R. Marten (IW), W. Miller (SD), A. Nordstrom (At), J. Pfothner (CN), R. Skov (Co)

Committee 14 CONVENTION FORMAT REVIEW

C: H. Scherer (Mo)

P: G. Bornemann (En), C. Heckmann (Tx), P. Pfothner (MnS)

T: C. Kentel (In)

L: D. Duclos (Mc), C. Petrowsky (Ok), I. Rempert (NI)

TELLERS

R. Rauscher, ch., E. Barrioz, Judy Bauer, W. L. Biesenthal, Sharlyn Fritz, L. Haertling, R. Knoll, J. Kucharik, Delores Mielke, E. Schmidt, Delores Sharadin, L. Stahlke

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Friday—July 4

- 3:00 Patriotic Observance
- 4:00 Opening Service
- 7:30 Devotion
- 7:45 Registration & Credentials (12)
- 8:00 Gavel Presentation
- 8:05 Welcome and Response
- 8:15 The President's Report
- 9:00 Standing Rules
- 9:30 Registration & Credentials (12)
- 9:45 Orientation
- 10:00 Adjournment (tentative)

Saturday—July 5

- 8:30 Devotion
- 8:40 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 9:15 Nominations (10)
- 10:00 Resolutions A & B (Referrals)
- 10:30 Registrations & Credentials (12)
- 11:00 Evangelism (1)
- 12:00 Administration (4)
- 12:30 Adjournment (tentative)
- 2:00 Evangelism Emphasis

Sunday—July 6

- 9:30 Bible Study
- 10:30 Worship Service
- 1:00 Devotion
- 1:10 Parish Services
- 2:30 Elections (1)
- 3:00 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 4:00 Administration (4)
- 5:00 Small Groups—Orientation
- 5:30 Adjournment (tentative)
- 7:30 Celebration

Monday—July 7

- 8:00 Small Groups
- 9:30 Sing
- 9:45 Evangelism (1)
- 10:00 Missions (2)
- 11:30 Social Ministry (8)
- 12:30 Adjournment
- 2:00 Devotion
- 2:10 Minutes
- 2:20 Elections (11)
- 2:30 Higher Education (6)
- 4:00 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 5:00 Missions (2)
- 5:30 Social Ministry (8)
- 6:00 Adjournment (tentative)
- 8:00 Recognition Night

Tuesday—July 8

- 8:00 Small Groups
- 9:30 Sing
- 9:45 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 11:30 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 12:30 Adjournment
- 2:00 Devotion

- 2:10 Minutes
- 2:20 Social Ministry (8)
- 3:00 Missions (2)
- 3:30 Elections (11)
- 3:45 Special & Sundry Matters (9)
- 4:30 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 5:00 Report of the General Secretary of LCUSA—George F. Harkins
- 5:10 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 6:00 Adjournment (tentative)
- 8:00 Alumni Meetings

Wednesday—July 9

- 8:00 Small Groups
- 9:30 Sing
- 9:45 Higher Education (6)
- 11:45 Parish Services (7)
- 12:30 Adjournment
- 2:00 Devotion
- 2:10 Minutes
- 2:20 Theology & Church Relations (3)
- 4:30 Parish Services (7)
- 5:00 Higher Education (6)
- 6:00 Adjournment (tentative)
- 8:00 Unfinished Business
- 10:00 Adjournment (tentative)

Thursday—July 10

- 8:00 Small Groups
- 9:30 Sing
- 9:45 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 11:15 Administration (4)
- 12:30 Adjournment
- 2:00 Devotion
- 2:10 Minutes
- 2:20 Higher Education (6)
- 2:45 Work Program Review (13)
- 3:15 Constitutional Matters (5)
- 4:00 Administration (4)
- 6:00 Adjournment (tentative)
- 8:00 Unfinished Business
- 10:00 Adjournment (tentative)

Friday—July 11

- 8:00 Devotion
- 8:10 Convention Format Review Committee (14)
- 8:40 Unfinished Business
(Between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Dr. David Preus, President of
The American Lutheran Church,
Dr. Robert Marshall, President of
The Lutheran Church in America, and
Dr. S. T. Jacobson, President of
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada
will address the convention)
- 12:30 Adjournment
- 2:00 Devotion
- 2:10 Minutes
- 2:20 Unfinished Business
- 4:30 Closing Service (Time tentative)

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION

Patriotic Observance

Prior to the opening of the 51st regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod a patriotic observance in honor of the bicentennial of the United States was held on Friday, July 4, 1975, in the convention center At Anaheim, California. Dr. August Suelflow, archivist of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and chairman of its Bicentennial Committee, was in charge of the observance, which began with the singing of the national anthem, the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and the presentation of the colors.

Following the singing of "God Bless Our Native Land," Dr. J. A. O. Preus, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, read a proclamation directing that the bicentennial of our country be observed by all members of the Synod. Included in the patriotic observance were a number of hymns interspersed with appropriate readings by Dr. Cyril Wismar. Among these were the Declaration of Independence, a petition of Lutherans, a portion of an address by C. F. W. Walther to the Synod regarding the United States, and a portion of Abraham Lincoln's 1865 inaugural address.

Chief of Chaplains, Major General Gerhardt W. Hyatt, then addressed the convention speaking on the theme of life and liberty through Christ. He pointed out that freedom is not free and that it is often achieved in the degree to which people strive to achieve it through Christ. Furthermore, when it is won, it never becomes an irrevocable heritage. Most people would rather reap the harvest of freedom than plant the seed and till the soil, and it is only when they realize that real life and liberty come through Christ that they will realize that life and liberty cannot be the property of one nation or people. True freedom cannot be enjoyed if it is denied to one's neighbor, and therefore our lives and aspirations must be brought under the precepts of Christ. He closed his address with the prayer that the grace and peace of Christ may be among us at this convention and in the future.

Opening Service

The opening service of the 51st regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held in the convention center at Anaheim, California, on July 4 at 4:00 p.m. Dr. August Bernthal, Fifth Vice-President of the Synod, delivered the sermon on the basis of Phil. 2:5-11. In his address he reminded us that we have a bell to ring for the world, a bell which calls out the message that Jesus Christ is Lord. He called upon the members of the Synod to make the message known that Jesus Christ is Lord, He is Lord indeed.

Presiding minister for the Eucharistic service was the Rev. Elmer Matthias of Zion Lutheran Church, Anaheim, California. Assisting in the service were the President and Vice-Presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as well as the District Presidents. Music for the service was provided by the churches of the Orange County, California, area and by the brass choir

from Orange County in addition to the handbell choir of St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange, California. Organist for the service was Mr. William Heide, Zion, Anaheim. The choirs were directed by Mr. David Held of St. John's, Orange, California.

Session 1

July 4, Evening

Opening

The opening devotion of the 51st synodical convention was conducted by Dr. J. A. O. Preus, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. After the opening hymn, "With the Lord Begin Thy Task," Dr. Preus spoke to the convention of the unity of spirit which we must have and of our submission to Christ, basing his remarks on Phil. 2:5-11.

Mr. Vern Pate, a member of the Convention Arrangements Committee in charge of registration and credentials, reported that as of 4:30 p.m. 525 voting pastors and 497 voting lay delegates had registered, a total of 1,022 voting delegates. Since this constituted a quorum, Dr. Preus declared the 51st convention of the Synod open in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. August Suelflow, Synod's archivist, presented a historic convention gavel to Dr. Preus. In his remarks he pointed out that President Preus was the fourth President of the Synod to use this gavel since 1911. The gavel, which has therefore become a symbol of the continuity within our Synod, was carved from a beam of the log cabin of the original seminary in Perry County and contains passages from Jeremiah 1:20 and Romans 3:28, as well as the faces of Luther and Walther. This is the 24th consecutive convention in which the gavel has been used.



Maj. Gen. Gerhardt W. Hyatt

President Preus introduced Dr. Arnold Kuntz, President of the Southern California District, who welcomed the delegates. In his remarks he invited the members of the convention to a celebration on Sunday evening with an opportunity to praise and thank God for His goodness. He pointed out that while the warfare motif is a good one for the church, another motif should also be stressed. This motif is that of one body, with Christ as its Head. He offered the hands, feet, smile, and hearts of the members of the Southern California District to the service of the President and the delegates at the convention.

Mr. William Zehnder, a member of the Board of Directors of the Synod, responded to this welcome. In his remarks he expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors of the Synod and expressed the wish that every member would have the same opportunity which he has had.

President's Report

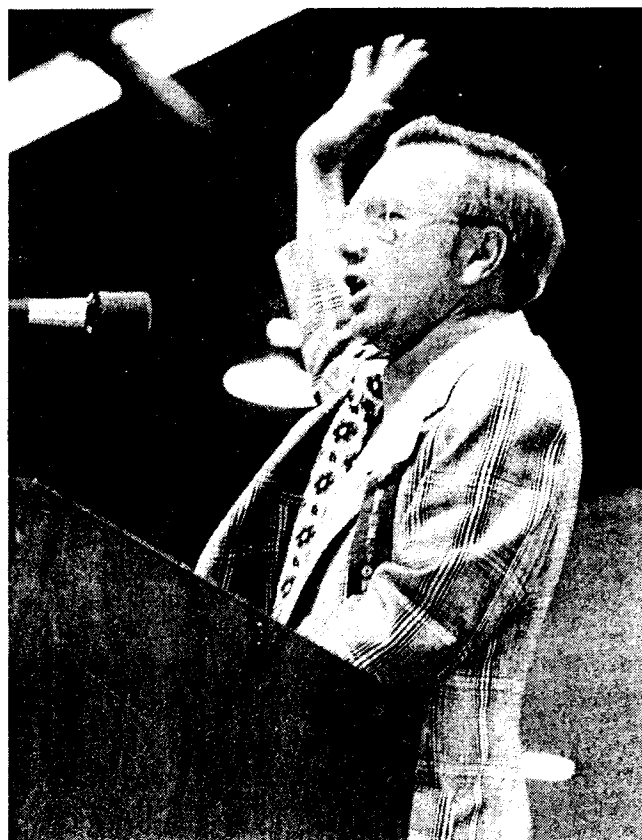
In his report to the convention President Preus stressed the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord. We are His slaves, His possession by virtue of His redemption. We begin, live, and die under His Lordship.

As President, after giving all glory and thanks to the heavenly Father, Dr. Preus expressed his thanks publicly to the Vice-Presidents of the Synod as well as all the other officials, boards, commissions, committees, and auxiliary organizations.

In his report Dr. Preus referred to a number of problems which have confronted the Synod and require resolution. Among these are the problems of Seminex, the matter of certain District Presidents finding themselves at odds with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, the dissenting movement known as ELIM, and certain problems within our mission department. He stated that he was convinced that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod wants three things: sound doctrine, peace, and progress.

Responding to the recommendations of the various committees, he asked that the matter of evangelism be taken seriously and that each congregation set high goals and strive to achieve them in this area. In relation to missions he reported on the efforts which have been made to resolve differences between the Board for Missions and the staff. He stated that there has been a deepening understanding regarding the talents and leadership abilities of the national leaders of the sister churches of the Synod and pointed out that one of the great challenges before this convention is that of devising ways and means whereby a wider and deeper support base for the work of sister churches may be developed. Congregations were encouraged, in consultation with their Districts, to look for new areas surrounding them where daughter congregations could be established. He stated that the matter of a Black Centennial would be announced later at this convention.

In matters of theology and church relations he urged a careful consideration of the resolutions regarding the seeking of unity in our church and stated that he saw the Synod playing a stronger and more vital role in inter-church activities in the future. The attention of the



William Zehnder, Board of Directors, acknowledges welcome to Southern California

delegates was also called to the recommendation to continue membership in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., to continue fellowship with The American Lutheran Church, and to the resolution regarding the protection of the unborn.

Although time did not permit a reference to all of the important resolutions, the President of the Synod stated that there were significant matters in the areas of higher education, stewardship, and parish services which would require the attention of the delegates. He also asked that the convention make a decision for the location of its next meeting since this matter was not yet resolved.

Dr. Preus closed his remarks with a few statements regarding conduct of the delegates at this convention and with the prayer that the Holy Spirit would be with this convention so that in all things Christ may be the Victor and that all glory be given to Him.

Recognition

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, introduced Dr. Elwood Zimmermann, President of the Indiana District, who introduced Mrs. Preus to the delegates and presented her with a bouquet of roses on behalf of the convention. Mrs. Preus responded with a word of thanks to the members.

Announcements

Dr. Preus announced to the convention that the Rev. Howard Halter, a member of the Atlantic District, had died unexpectedly and that the Rev. Harold Brockhoff,

President of the Oklahoma District, is undergoing major surgery. He is being represented at the convention by Vice-President Walmar Frank.

Parliamentarians for the convention, Mrs. Mabel Stickel, president of the California State Parliamentarians Association, and Dr. Mark Steege, a member of the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, were also introduced to the delegates.

Standing Rules

Dr. Charles Mueller, President of the Southeastern District and chairman of the Convention Format Committee, presented standing rules to the delegates for adoption. These rules are on page 8 of *Today's Business*. In his opening remarks he stated that many new things are being tried at this convention. He also stressed that there were several principles which were involved in the formation of the standing rules. Among these principles were that the majority has the right to make decisions, the minority has a right to be heard in the hope that it may be persuasive enough to become the majority, that the rights of those who are absent need protection, that the convention has a right to conduct its business in an amiable way, and that the individual must be given the right to speak.

After this presentation a motion was made and seconded to adopt the standing rules on page 8 of *Today's Business*. A motion to amend Rule 2 to read: "Resolutions of each floor committee shall be prioritized by number and shall normally be presented in the numerical sequence as published in *Today's Business*" was adopted. After defeating a motion to amend Rule 5, the convention approved the standing rules as amended.

Registration and Credentials

The Rev. John Zimmermann, chairman of the Committee on Registration and Credentials, presented the resolutions of his committee. After eliminating the numbers in Res. 12-01 relating to the subject and changing the subject to read: "To Decline Overtures Challenging Eligibility of ELIM," the delegates adopted the resolution (TB 187). By adopting Res. 12-02, after changing the subject to read "To Decline Overture 12-04 (Eligibility of Seminex Instructors)," eliminating the word "respectfully" in line 48, and changing the resolved to read: "Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 12-04," the convention agreed that Seminex instructors were eligible to serve as advisory delegates of the Missouri District (TB 187). Since the Committee on Constitutional Matters had dealt with the issue, the committee asked that Res. 5-22 (TB 113) be substituted for Res. 12-03 (TB 188). The convention agreed with this request and by adopting Res. 5-22 accepted a change in Bylaw 1.59 of the synodical *Handbook* which deleted the necessity of congregational certification for lay delegates. It was then stated that the work of the Committee on Registration and Credentials was completed.

Greetings

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, read a letter of greetings from the Lutheran Women's Mission-

ary League to the convention delegates. The letter included a prayer for the blessings of God upon the convention. A telegram from President Waesa of the Wabag Lutheran Church, bringing the greetings of that church, was also read.

Closing Devotion

Dr. Harvey Lehmann led the delegates in the singing of "Amazing Grace" and prayer to close the first session of the convention.

Session 2

July 5, Morning

Opening

The opening devotion for the second session of the convention was conducted by the Rev. Charles Mueller, President of the Southeastern District. His devotional thoughts based on John 20 followed the singing of the hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name" and stressed that Jesus deals with the fear phenomenon which is so prevalent in the lives of His people. He does this by coming to them with a declaration of peace rather than with an accusation, wiping out the past and sending them out in His name.

Announcement

An announcement was made that material which is to be distributed must be placed on the table provided in the convention hall. A city ordinance forbids the handing out of material in the parking lot without convention permission. Following this announcement, the convention granted permission to any special-interest group to hand out materials in the parking lot.

Constitutional Matters

Dr. Edmund Happel, chairman of the committee on Constitutional Matters, made a statement to the convention asking the delegates to deal charitably with problems in sensitive areas and encouraged them to keep the total mission of the church in mind as it makes its decisions, remembering that Jesus Christ is Lord. He then introduced Res. 5-01A (TB 201) as a substitute for 5-01 (TB 99), which asked for the appointment of a task force to study and propose revision of the Constitution, Bylaws, and organization of the Synod. A motion to amend the resolution to include the statement "that the confessional basis as stipulated in Article II be preserved" between lines 7 and 8 (TB 202) was declined as was an amendment to delete the words "and its Districts" from line 39 (TB 201). An amendment to add the words "from nine separate Districts" after the words "nine lay persons" on line 42 (TB 201) was also declined. For lack of time the original motion was not acted on.

Nominations

The floor committee on Convention Nominations presented its slate of candidates on pages 417-423 of the *Convention Workbook* after reminding the delegates that additional nominations must be made in conformity with Bylaw 2.145 of the synodical *Handbook*. In addition to

the names in the *Convention Workbook*, with the exception of Susan K. Wendorf, lay candidate for the Milwaukee Board of Control, the following nominations received from the convention floor were added to the slate:

Board of Directors

PASTORS

Herbert W. Berner
John D. Frey
Walter Schoedel

LAYPERSONS

Florence Montz
Edith S. Rehbein
Franklin W. Schmidt

Commission of Adjudication

PASTOR

Harlan Hartner

LAYPERSON

R. J. Wendorff

Board of Appeals

LAYPERSONS

Robert W. Alrutz
Robert C. Kraemer
Kenneth J. Vogt

CPH Board of Directors

LAYPERSON

John Hoffmeyer

Convention Nominations

PASTORS

David S. Belasic
Clarence Roth

LAYPERSON

Judith B. Helm

Board for Evangelism

PASTOR

Timothy S. Parsch

Board for Higher Education

PASTOR

Robert C. Boedecker

LAYPERSON

Walter A. Christopher

Board for Missions

PASTORS

Richard H. Meyer
Walter W. Snyder

TEACHER (2 YRS)

George W. Bluma

TEACHER (4 YRS)

Wayne Lucht

Board of Parish Education

LAYMAN

Wayne W. Wiltse

Board of Stewardship

PASTOR

Henry C. Schroeder

Board of Youth Ministry

LAYPERSON

Sharon Schuh

YOUTH

Alan O. Lemley
Jon D. Hohenstein
Joe Patrick Bean

Commission on Mission and Ministry

PASTOR

Max P. Metcalf

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

PASTORS

Edward E. Busch
Dale A. Erickson
Richard A. Lischer

Board of Control, Ann Arbor

PASTORS

T. Richard Marcis
Eugene W. Nissen

Board of Control, Austin

PASTOR

James K. Blumhorst

LAYPERSON

Leonard F. Schroeder

Board of Control, Bronxville

PASTOR

Elwood E. Mather

TEACHER

Robert T. Beckmann

LAYPERSON

Henry G. Appel

Board of Control, Milwaukee

LAYPERSON (4 YRS)

Marvin A. Schrader

LAYPERSON (2 YRS)

Leo A. Bordeleau

Board of Control, Oakland

LAYPERSONS

Gerald Kendall
Art Kelly

Board of Control, River Forest

PASTOR

William H. Griffen

Board of Control, St. Louis

PASTOR

Alfred Buls

LAYPERSON

Walter A. Hilgendorf

Board of Control, Selma

PASTOR

Simon Bodley

Board of Control, Seward

TEACHER

F. William Chandler

Board of Control, Springfield

PASTOR

Stanton A. Yingling

Board of Control, Porto Alegre

LAYPERSON (2 YRS)

Johannes Engel

President Preus then declared the nominations closed.

Referrals

Following a new procedure, Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, presented Resolutions A and B (TB 190, 191), explaining the purpose of each. These resolutions were introduced in order that certain overtures which had appeared in the *Convention Workbook* might be presented directly to the responsible boards and committees or that in certain cases the petitioners might be referred to actions of a previous convention which dealt with their concerns. After agreeing to remove Overture 6-127 and declining to remove Overtures 4-36A—D, 4-37A—F, and 4-82, Resolution A was adopted. The convention delegates then agreed to add Overtures 3-142—3-145B, Ordination of Women, Milwaukee Res. 2-04, to Resolution B but declined to add Overtures 4-22A—4-32, dissolution of English District, Denver Res. 5-15. After approving a motion to call the question, a point of order was raised from the floor disagreeing with the ruling of the chair that this motion was in order since it was believed that time for discussion of the motion had expired. The convention sustained the chair in its ruling. After extending time for completion of the discussion of Resolution B and once again declining the amendment relating to the dissolution of the English District, the delegates adopted Resolution B as amended.

Registration and Credentials

The floor committee on Registration and Credentials reported that it had no further business for the convention at this time.

Evangelism

Rev. Charles Mueller, chairman of the floor committee on Evangelism, asked that all members of the committee be present on the platform because of the emphasis of this convention on evangelism and the importance of the work of this committee. After hearing from several members of the committee the delegates were led in prayer by Dr. Rudolph Ressmeyer prior to the presentation of the committee's resolutions.

By adopting Res. 1-01 (TB 21) the delegates commended the people responsible for the evangelism format of this convention and urged all delegates to participate in the Bible study groups and evangelistic activities of the convention. Res. 1-02A (TB 197) was then introduced as a substitute for Res. 1-02 (TB 21). This resolution called for the affirmation of a Lutheran understanding of evangelism. It was adopted after amending the resolution in line 63 (TB 197) by adding the words "with the members of his own family" after the word "Gospel" and by deleting the word "American" in the resolution (line 28, TB 197, and line 4, TB 198). This action was taken after declining several other amendments as well as a motion to refer the resolution back to the floor committee.

Administration

Dr. Elwood Zimmermann, chairman of the floor committee on Administration, introduced the resolutions of his committee. Res. 4-01 dealing with the transfer of

congregations was adopted after adding "Trinity, Hudson, Wisconsin, from the North Wisconsin to the Minnesota South District" (line 22, TB 72). After introducing Res. 4-03A (TB 199) as a substitute for 4-03 (TB 74) relating to the matter of combating racism, the delegates were addressed by Mr. Dallas Martin, area director of the housing and urban development for Arizona and Southern California. Mr. Martin is also a member of the Board of Social Ministry of the Synod and a member of the Lutheran Human Relations Association. In his remarks he asked for a strong resolution for human relations and strong affirmative action which would include a provision of sufficient funds to combat racism. In the discussion which followed the delegates agreed to substitute the word "member" for the word "pastor" in the first resolved. The Secretary of the Synod was asked to make the necessary editorial amendments. In addition, they agreed to add the words "we ask" in the three resolves in lines 35, 38, and 42 (TB 199). A motion was then made and seconded to substitute the two resolves under No. 3 of Overture 4-78 (CW 200) for the last two resolves in Res. 4-03A. After the chair granted permission to divide the question, this substitute motion was adopted. Time for discussion of the entire matter expired before action could be taken on the rationale and the first resolved of Res. 4-03A.

Announcement

Mr. Victor Bryant, Director of Public Relations of the Synod, announced that the text of the decision regarding Dr. Tietjen would be sent to all congregations. As a result of many requests, however, he stated that delegates would be able to receive copies of this decision at the close of the session.

Closing

The closing devotion was conducted by Dr. Erwin Kolb, Executive Secretary of Evangelism, after referring the delegates to instructions found on page 207 of *Today's Business* relating to the evangelism activities of the afternoon.

Session 3

July 6, Afternoon

Sunday Worship

A Bible study and worship service was held for those not attending services in the churches immediately surrounding the convention center. The worship service was under the direction of Dr. Erwin Kolb, Executive Secretary of Evangelism for the Synod, with the sermon being delivered by Rev. Paul Foust, Stewardship and Evangelism Counselor for the Michigan District.

Opening Devotion

The Rev. W. Leroy Biesenthal, Director of Stewardship and Evangelism for the Missouri District, led the delegates in the opening devotion for the afternoon session.

Minutes

Following the procedure outlined in the standing



One scene from Sunday evening's "Celebration" in the Arena

rules of the convention, the delegates approved the minutes of Sessions 1 and 2 as amended.

Orders of the Day

A delegate offered a privileged motion to the effect: "Resolved, That the chair be instructed to revise the orders of the day for Tuesday in order that Committee 4 might present its resolution on the English District and in addition that a minimum of one hour be given for discussion on this matter; and be it further Resolved, That if Committee 4 is not prepared at that time to present its final resolution, the convention shall proceed to consider Res. 4-02 as found on page 72 of Section A of the original *Today's Business*." The delegates agreed to this procedure. The convention sustained the chair in its ruling that the required $\frac{2}{3}$ vote for changing orders of the day had been received. They did, however, decline an amendment which asked that "at the end of the hour's discussion a vote be taken to determine the matter of the dissolution of the English District."

Parish Services

With Dr. Weber, First Vice-President of the Synod, presiding, the Rev. Wilbert Griesse, chairman of the floor committee on Parish Services, began the presentation of the resolutions from this committee. Before presenting the resolutions he introduced Mr. Fred I. Lisston, secretary of church relations for the American Bible Society, who addressed the delegates briefly.

After amending line 23 (TB 149) to include the words "and possible weekday school and Bible study" between the words "Sunday school" and "program" the delegates adopted Res. 7-01 (TB 149), which asked that the individual congregations and the Synod's Board of Parish Education seek to strengthen these programs for the purposes of nurture and evangelism. They determined that the emphasis at the 1977 synodical convention should be on Christian nurture by adopting Res. 7-02 (TB 149).

Resolution 7-03 (TB 150), asking that resources be provided for assisting parents in the nurture of their

children in the Christian faith, was adopted after it had been amended. By common consent the word "further" was inserted on line 25 (TB 150) between the words "develop" and "resources." Line 26 (TB 150) was amended by adding the words "with special attention to the unique needs of families in minority communities" at the end of the resolved. Resolution 7-04 (TB 150), asking parishes of the Synod to help young adults find meaningful ways of ministry in the church, was then introduced. Before adopting it the delegates accepted an amendment which struck the last resolved and changed the final words of the first resolved to read "be it further" instead of "finally." It then added two further resolutions which read: "Resolved, That the parishes of the Synod encourage young adults to become trained and active in the mission and ministry of the church; and be it finally Resolved, That a synodical youth gathering be sponsored to encourage young adults in their commitment to the service of Jesus Christ under the Word of God." They also agreed to strike the words "and who are involved in meaningful occupations" from line 45 (TB 150). The resolution was then adopted as amended. Resolution 7-05 (TB 151), asking the Synod to reaffirm its strong commitment to youth ministry and urging the congregations to carry out an aggressive youth ministry, utilizing programs offered by the Board of Youth Ministry, was then introduced. By common consent the word "difficult" was changed to "challenging" in line 19 (TB 151). An amendment to strike the word "Gospel" in line 15 (TB 151) and to insert the phrase "the whole Word of God" was accepted as was an amendment to add the words "and is of prime importance; and" after the word "ministry" in line 19 (TB 151). An amendment to end the second resolved after the first word, "ministry" (line 31, TB 151), and to strike the remainder of the resolution was declined. The delegates then adopted the resolution as amended.

A resolution calling for the orderly transfer of the television ministry of the Synod to the International Lutheran Laymen's League was accepted after it was agreed that all references to the Lutheran Laymen's League be changed to "International Lutheran Laymen's League" (Res. 7-06, TB 151). Before doing so, however, an additional resolution was added which stated "and be it further Resolved, That congregations and individuals be commended for their past support and be urged to intensify their support for this vital ministry." The action of the Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals relating to discontinuation of the publication *Der Lutheraner* and making the *Lutheran Witness Reporter* the "Reporter Edition" of the *Lutheran Witness* was approved (Res. 7-07, TB 153).

Elections

Chairman of the Elections floor committee, the Rev. Albert Marcis, explained election procedures to the convention. A motion asking that the elections be delayed until a method could be found to hold the elections in a more convenient way was declined by the delegates.

In response to a question from the floor it was stated by the chairman of the committee that the name of Dr. David Krohn had been stricken from the ballot as a

candidate for the Board of Control at Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska, because he had not been nominated from the floor. After agreeing by a majority to reopen the nominations for this position, a motion to place the name of Dr. David Krohn on the ballot was approved. Because of printing errors, the chairman announced that card numbers 6A and 8 would be rerun and would be voted on at a later time. The convention then approved the extension of time for completion of the elections. In response to a question from the floor during this time it was stated that the Rev. Delbert Tiemann's name had been removed as a candidate for the Board of Parish Education because the proper documentation had not been received by the Nominating Committee. Several other nominations received from the floor had also not been included in the ballots since these nominations had not met the specified criteria for inclusion.

Orders of the Day

After the majority of delegates had voted, the convention was reconvened. Dr. Preus announced that because of the extension of time for the completion of the elections there would be a change in the times designated for the committees on Constitutional Matters and Administration in order to allow them to present their resolutions.

Constitutional Matters

Since action had not been completed on Res. 5-01A (TB 201), this resolution was reintroduced by the committee chairman, Dr. Edmund Happel. A previously introduced amendment asking for the insertion of the words "with no more than three members from any one District" after the word "committee" in line 43 (TB 201) was accepted. Amendments to strike the words "together with" and to substitute the word "reject" in line 73 (TB 201) and to strike the words "Council of Administrators" and to substitute the word "praesidium" in lines 55 and 58 (TB 201) were declined. Since 30 minutes of debate had elapsed for discussion of this resolution, the convention agreed to vote on the resolution. It was adopted as amended.

Elections

The Rev. Albert Marcis, chairman of the floor committee on Elections, declared the elections closed.

Constitutional Matters

Continuing its report, the committee on Constitutional Matters introduced Res. 5-02A (TB 202), which directed the District Presidents to uphold the Constitution and Bylaws relating to ordination of candidates and which provided for procedures to be followed if District Presidents found it impossible for conscience reasons to follow the Bylaws. After the resolution had been read with a change in line 9 (TB 204) of the synodical *Handbook* reference to (XI B. 1, 2, 3), a motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution. At this point the chair granted permission for a privileged motion objecting to consideration of this resolution by the convention. By a vote of 602-444, however, the delegates agreed to consider the matter. After receiving a request from the Rev.

Wilbert Griesse, chairman of the Council of Presidents, to postpone consideration of this matter so that the Council of Presidents could consider it one more time, a motion was made and adopted to grant this request with the understanding that the matter would be brought up once again at the convention session on Tuesday afternoon.

Administration

Dr. Elwood Zimmermann, chairman of the floor committee on Administration, reintroduced Res. 4-03A (TB 199), on which action had not been completed. A motion was made and seconded to insert a number of word changes in the resolution. Because of previous editorial changes which had been requested by the convention and had not yet been printed, as well as the new changes which were being considered, the convention referred this resolution back to the committee for editing and reconsideration.

By adopting Res. 4-04 (TB 75) the delegates declined overtures asking that it be mandatory to specify reasons for the termination of personnel. After considerable discussion, Res. 4-05 (TB 76) authorizing deficit spending for current expenses in 1975 was approved, as was Res. 4-06 (TB 77), which called for amending the Bylaws relating to budget preparation. The delegates agreed to change the membership of the Fiscal Review Commission (Res. 4-07, TB 78) and granted authority for utilizing insurance companies for the purchase of annuities and/or investment purposes for the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers (Res. 4-08, TB 79). While adopting this resolution they declined an amendment which asked that after the word "companies" in line 31 (TB 79) the words "some of which are owned and operated by minorities" be inserted.

Recognition

President Preus read a letter to the delegates from Mr. and Mrs. Edward Scott stating that in gratitude to God they would be turning the proceeds from the sale of a radio station over to the Lutheran Foundation. The estimated amount of the proceeds from the sale is \$1,250,000. The convention expressed their appreciation for this action by a rising ovation.

Point of Privilege

Dr. Karl Barth, President of the South Wisconsin District, on a point of privilege informed the delegates that previous information regarding a Council of Presidents meeting was misleading. He further indicated that the District Presidents referred to in Res. 5-02A (TB 202) had not requested such a meeting and that there was no indication on their part of a change of view or a desire to delay action on this resolution.

Closing Devotion

The convention closed with the singing of the doxology and the pronouncement of the benediction by President Preus. Following the devotion, arrangements for the small-group meetings were announced by the Rev. Robert Sauer, assistant to the President of the Synod.

Session 4

July 7, Morning

Opening

The morning session began with small-group Bible studies based on Matt. 28:16-20 and prayer. This was followed by discussion in the small groups of matters before the Synod under the main emphasis of the day. After the delegates had been led in the singing of a number of hymns, Dr. Preus declared the session open in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Evangelism

The floor committee on Evangelism continued the presentation of its resolutions with the introduction of Res. 1-03 (TB 22). This resolution, which called for the establishment of renewal retreats for professional church workers and their spouses and for congregational leaders and their spouses, was adopted by title by the convention. It also asked that evangelism objectives be established at the District and congregational levels (Res. 1-04, TB 23). Congregations were urged to maintain contact with members leaving their parishes, and the Board for Evangelism was encouraged to assist congregations in developing programs of assimilation for all incoming members in order to stem the tide of membership losses (Res. 1-05, TB 24).

Progress Report

President Preus indicated that the time allotted for discussion of evangelism resolutions had elapsed and that the remainder of the resolutions would be discussed at scattered intervals throughout the rest of the convention time. At this point a total of 263 resolutions had been submitted to the convention. Of these, 21 have been acted upon.

Missions

Dr. Richard Schlecht, chairman of the floor committee on Missions, introduced the Rev. Alvin Barry, new Executive Secretary of the Board for Missions, who addressed the delegates briefly. In his remarks he stated that it was time to move forward aggressively in our mission programs according to a number of guiding principles. Among these were (1) that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and that no one can come to the Father but by Him; (2) because Christ is the only way of salvation, there is an urgency to our work; (3) we have the power and potential to do the task; (4) we have the assurance from our Lord that where we sow the seed He will raise a crop.

Prior to introducing the resolutions from the floor committee, Chairman Schlecht made a statement to the delegates regarding the difficulty of their task and the spirit in which the resolutions were formed. Resolution 2-01A (TB 233) was introduced as a substitute for Res. 2-01 (TB 30). This resolution called for a reaffirmation of our church's mission. Before reading it Chairman Schlecht indicated that the word "it" should be inserted on line 29 (TB 234) between the words "live" and "out." A motion to amend the resolution by striking lines 35 and

36 (TB 234) was declined. The convention, following the "Behnken rule," also declined to consider a substitute motion which was presented. A division of the house was called for after the chairman had ruled that a motion to cease debate had received a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. The division of the house indicated by a vote of 594—417 that the $\frac{2}{3}$ majority had not been received. Debate on the resolution was then continued. Following further discussion a motion to call the question was approved. The request for a count of the delegate votes was denied by the convention, which then adopted Res. 2-01A (TB 233).

At this point Pastor Barry introduced leaders of the various national churches affiliated with the Synod, each of whom addressed the delegates briefly. Representatives of the various churches were Japan Lutheran Church, Pastor Kuraji Yoshikawa, General Secretary; Guatemala, Walter Schieber, Treasurer and Business Service Officer of the Caribbean Mission Office; India Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dr. James Gamaliel, professor of world religions and evangelism at the seminary of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church; Lutheran Church of Nigeria, Pastor Nelson Unwene, First Vice-President of the church; Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, Pastor Paul Fynn, former Secretary of the church. Pastor Fynn presented Dr. Preus with an egg as a symbol of our need to be careful not to lose the opportunity of bringing the Gospel to people throughout the world.

Social Ministry

Before presenting the resolutions coming from his committee, the Rev. George Rode, chairman of the committee on Social Ministry, introduced Dr. Leslie Weber, Executive Secretary of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, who spoke to the convention. Chairman Rode also indicated that Res. 8-11 (TB 171) had been withdrawn, that Res. 8-13 (TB 173) would appear in a new form as Res. 8-13A, and that Res. 8-14 would appear as a new resolution in *Today's Business*.

Following these announcements Res. 8-01 (TB 165) was adopted, asking that serious consideration be given to 10 areas of opportunities in Social Ministry and World Relief. These areas had been referred to in the report of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief.

Resolution 8-02 (TB 165) encouraging the Commission on Ministerial Health to continue its program was adopted. This was done after striking the words "seek to" from line 53 (TB 165). The resolution thus asked the Board of Directors and the Districts to fund and encourage this program. By adopting Res. 8-03 (TB 166) encouragement was given to renew efforts in behalf of world hunger by setting a new goal of raising at least \$2,000,000 for this purpose and by urging the Government to do its utmost in alleviating hunger and starvation wherever possible. This resolution also authorized the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to engage the services of a full-time staff person to assist the Secretary of World Relief.

Point of Privilege

In relation to the resolution which had just been passed, a delegate asked that the disaster areas in the

Midwest be considered and included in the prayers of the convention.

Social Ministry

Resolution 8-04 (TB 167) asking for support of Christian brothers and sisters in Namibia in their struggle for racial equality and justice was then introduced. A motion to strike the first resolved, line 17 (TB 167), was declined. However, another amendment was adopted by inserting the following at line 16 (TB 167): "And, WHEREAS, The selfsame system of apartheid which oppresses our black Christian sisters and brothers in southwest Africa (Namibia) continues to cause suffering among black Christians, many of whom are Lutherans, in South Africa; therefore be it *Resolved*." The words "therefore be it" were removed from line 15 (TB 167) by this change. The amendment also added the words "and South Africans" after the word "Namibians" on line 27 (TB 167). The resolution was then adopted as amended.

Resolution 8-05 (TB 167) asking the delegates to declare their solidarity with and support for persecuted Christians was adopted after declining amendments asking that the word "Communist" in line 48 (TB 167) be stricken and replaced with references to oppressive forms of civil government. The resolution was adopted after the time had been extended for completion of consideration of this resolution.

Announcement

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, announced that a Recognition Night would be held in the evening. Delegates were not to be restricted to any particular section of seating for this event.

Closing

The morning session closed with a prayer led by Dr. Theodore F. Nickel, Third Vice-President of the Synod, who included the disaster areas of the Midwest in his prayer as had been previously requested.

Session 5

July 7, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

The opening devotion for the afternoon session was led by the Rev. Alvin Barry, Executive Secretary of the Board for Missions, who stressed that we are to sound God's note of love in the world today and it must be sounded repeatedly. The devotion concluded with a prayer asking God to make us active witnesses for Him in our world.

Minutes

The minutes of the afternoon session of July 6 and the morning session of July 7 were approved as amended.

Elections

Chairman of the Elections committee, the Rev. Albert Marcis, reported that results of some of the elections were now available. Additional ballots were then distributed with the instructions for voting. (The full election results are attached to the Minutes.)

Objection

At this point in the procedure a delegate once again stated his objection to the publication of a list of preferred candidates by *Affirm*. In response to the objection President Preus stated that it was difficult if not impossible to control the dissemination of opinions. This was especially true since the convention had given permission to distribute information in a previous session of the convention. He also expressed a wish that the convention would in some way indicate its appreciation for the services rendered and its trust in some of the people who would not be returned to office. A motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the list provided by *Affirm* was not recognized. Pastoral delegate Edgar M. Kirschenmann at this point declared his protest of the election. The protest was noted by the chair.

Elections

Chairman of the floor committee, Rev. Marcis, declared the elections closed.

Higher Education

Dr. Ellis Nieting, chairman of the floor committee on Higher Education, introduced the resolutions of this committee by referring to the many hours which had been devoted to the formation of the resolutions. As a result of the suggestions which had been received, some of the resolutions were changed. He announced that in *Today's Business*, page 248, letters a, b, c, and d under the second resolved were to be placed under the first resolved.

Resolution 6-01A (TB 247), replacing Res. 6-01 (TB 129), honoring professors of our synodical institutions who have fallen asleep in Jesus during the past biennium, was adopted.

By introducing Res. 6-02 (TB 129) the Synod sought to clarify the status of Seminex by asking those engaged in conducting and supporting it to close the institution and by stating that if it continued to exist it would be regarded as any other theological school not affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. An amendment asking for a delay of the discussion of this resolution until after action had been taken on Res. 3-10 (TB 55) was declined. The convention also declined to consider a substitute motion which asked that the discussion of Seminex, placement of its graduates, and other matters relating to this not be considered at this time. A request for a division of the house on a motion to terminate debate at this point showed by a vote of 613—447 that the $\frac{2}{3}$ majority had not been achieved. In the continuing discussion the delegates declined to consider another substitute motion asking that professors at Seminex meet with the Board of Control of the seminary to discuss and resolve certain issues. They also failed to grant permission to allow a spokesman from Seminex to speak before the convention to state reasons of Seminex professors for taking the action which they did. Before the vote on Res. 6-02 (TB 129) was taken, a motion to replace the whereas in lines 36—38 (TB 129) with the words "WHEREAS, The Synod at this convention has

determined to dissolve Seminex" was declined as was a motion to delete lines 40—42 (TB 129). Since the required 30 minutes for discussion of this resolution had elapsed, the chair called for a decision on the termination of debate. The chair ruled that the delegates had agreed to the termination of debate by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. The resolution was then adopted as printed.

At the consent of the delegates, Res. 6-03 (TB 130) was introduced by title. This resolution called for an increase in efforts for recruitment of professional church workers. A motion to amend the resolution by changing the first resolved to read: "Resolved, That the Synod emphasize for all member congregations and for all their professional church workers that recruitment for church ministries is primarily their responsibility and therefore seriously urge them to: a. Pray more fervently in public worship for more Christian boys and girls and men and women willing to enter the church ministries"; and changing a, b, and c in lines 27—29 (TB 130) to b, c, and d was adopted. The amended resolution was then accepted by the delegates.

The convention revised the Bylaws governing the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office after declining to strike the proposed wording in lines 34—50 (Res. 6-04, TB 132) and substituting for these lines the present wording on lines 34—36 (TB 132). Prior to the presentation of this resolution the committee had reported several changes. The word "endorsed" was substituted for the word "certified" in line 40 (TB 133), and the words "who completed their vicarages under the Board for Higher Education auspices" were inserted between the word "graduates" and "shall" on line 43 (TB 133).

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman of the floor committee on Theology and Church Relations, Dr. August Mennicke, prefaced the introduction of resolutions from this committee with a statement that the resolutions were being offered in order to unite rather than to separate. He asked the delegates to consider individually a prayer for a clean heart, a right spirit, and the joy of salvation, and corporately a prayer that all the doings and life of the convention delegates might please God before action was taken on these resolutions.

Prior to presenting Res. 3-01 (TB 43), asking for action which would seek to bring about unity in the Synod, a number of minor changes were noted. Among them were the following: In line 39 (TB 43) the words "only come" were to be reversed. In line 47 (TB 43) the word "to" was to be moved from its present position and was to appear between the words "forthrightly" and "express." A motion was then made and seconded to adopt Res. 3-01 (TB 43) with these editorial changes. An amendment calling for an additional resolution which would have declared New Orleans Resolutions 2-12, 3-01, and 3-09, in addition to 6-02 of the present convention, null and void, was declined. The proposed amendment had also asked for recognition of Seminex as a seminary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, together with ordination and installation of Seminex students and cessation of any oppressive

action until after meetings for discussion of the theology and mission of the church had been held. After adding the words "and pray" after "God's Word" in line 39 (TB 43) but declining to delete lines 60—63 (TB 43) and after terminating debate by a convention vote, the convention adopted the resolution.

Orders of the Day

Although it rejected a motion calling for a change in the orders of the day, the convention did agree to extend the time of the afternoon session to 6:30 p.m.

Theology and Church Relations

By adopting Res. 3-02 (TB 44) the convention reaffirmed the desire of the Synod to establish fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Discussion was next begun on Res. 3-03A (TB 242), a substitute for Res. 3-03 (TB 45). This resolution was intended to provide a means for responding to concerns of the former "faculty majority" of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. After declining a motion to table the resolution, discussion continued, with the chairman calling for termination of debate at the end of 30 minutes. In the judgment of the chair the $\frac{2}{3}$ vote necessary for termination of debate was received. At this point a delegate asked for an opinion regarding the constitutionality of this resolution. Dr. Preus indicated that a response to this question would be given at a later time. Since time for discussion had expired, final action was not taken on this resolution.

Missions

Dr. Richard Schlecht, chairman of the floor committee on Missions, introduced Res. 2-02A (TB 235) as a substitute for 2-02 (TB 32). This resolution called for conclusion of the work of the Mission Study Commission. After amending the resolution by striking numbers 2 and 23 from lines 26—27 (TB 235) and adding the words "and

recognize that many decisions must be made on the basis of this counsel of the sister churches" after the word "programs" in line 72 (TB 235), the resolution was adopted as amended.

Social Ministry

Dr. George Rode, reporting for the floor committee on Social Ministry, introduced Dr. August Bernthal, Fifth Vice-President of the Synod, who is directing the efforts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees. He introduced Mr. and Mrs. James L. Quinelly, a sponsoring family for Vietnamese refugee Mr. Nguyen Trong Lieu. Mr. Lieu, a former presiding judge of the military court in Saigon, addressed the assembly, expressing his thanks to the church for its efforts in the resettlement of the Vietnamese refugees. Following his presentation the convention adopted a resolution encouraging congregations to consider seriously the possibility of sponsoring a family of Vietnamese people and asking the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to continue its activities in this area (Res. 8-14, TB 250).

Closing Devotion

The afternoon session was closed with a prayer led by Dr. Guido Merkens, Second Vice-President of the Synod.

Recognition Night

The evening was designated as a "Recognition Night" in which various groups and individuals were introduced to the convention. A number of awards were also presented at this time. Among them were the following: the Christus Magister award presented to Armin Gutekunst for recognition of his service as outstanding teacher and principal; the Emmy award given to the Synod for the outstanding religious TV program; the St. Martin of Tours award presented to Dr. Kenneth Ahl, former executive officer of the Armed Services Commission; and the John of Beverly award presented in absentia to the Rev. Philip Ho of Hong Kong.

Portions of a Christian Witness musical, "Celebrate the Spirit," featuring singers from Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska, were presented.

The evening closed with a devotion led by Dr. Oliver Harms, Past President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as a memorial service for the professional church workers who had fallen asleep in Jesus during the past biennium.

Session 6

July 8, Morning

Opening

The morning session began with small-group Bible studies and prayer followed by discussions in the small groups of matters before the Synod under the main emphasis of the day. After the delegates had joined in singing a number of hymns, Dr. Preus led the delegates in prayer for the sick and sorrowing in the Synod and then declared the session open.



Terry Kuntz and "How Great Thou Art!"

Point of Privilege

Having been granted a point of privilege by the chair, a delegate addressed the convention, asking them to remember that Jesus Christ is Lord of us all. He stated that in our thinking we must keep the goals of Synod in mind, not our own individual goals. He asked the delegates to stop thinking provincially and to think as a Synod.

Orders of the Day

The orders of the day were changed to allow sufficient time in the afternoon session for discussion of Res. 5-02A (TB 202).

Point of Privilege

Another delegate on a point of privilege asked the delegates to act in love during their consideration of the resolutions which would come before the convention in this session.

Theology and Church Relations

Responding to a question from the floor on the previous day, Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, speaking for the Commission on Constitutional Matters, stated that the commission had ruled the consideration of Res. 3-03A (TB 242) constitutional. He stated that while this was the view of the commission at this time it reserved the right to alter its opinion after further consideration.

Dr. August Mennicke, chairman of the floor committee on Theology and Church Relations, reintroduced Res. 3-03A (TB 242), on which action had not been completed.

At the conclusion of previous consideration debate had been terminated, but no vote had been taken. Prior to consideration of the resolution, Dr. Mennicke asked Dr. Happel, chairman of the committee on Constitutional Matters, to address the delegates since Res. 5-04 (TB 103), a resolution coming from that committee, dealt with similar matters. President Preus was granted the privilege of addressing the convention in relation to Res. 3-03A. In his statement he pointed to the reasons for this resolution, reminding the delegates that its purpose was to provide a means for meeting the request of Seminex students relating to the position of teachers at Seminex. The resolution was intended to find a fair and loving way to deal with a difficult situation.

In response to a question from the floor the chairman stated that debate was terminated on the resolution since there had been no call for a division of the house when the question of termination of debate was previously considered. After declining a motion to reopen discussion on the resolution, the delegates adopted Res. 3-03A (TB 242).

Resolution 3-04 (TB 46), asking the Synod to reaffirm its right to adopt doctrinal statements and to establish procedures for proposing additions to the *Handbook* which would deal with this matter, was then introduced. Prior to the discussion the floor committee had stricken the word "draft" in line 40 (TB 46) and replaced it with the words "present to the 1977 convention." After declining to delete lines 23—31 (TB 46) or to consider Overture 3-94 (CW 91) as a substitute motion, the delegates adopted the resolution.

Discussion of Res. 3-05 (TB 47) calling for the Synod



Recognition to District Presidents and their wives

to clarify its declaration concerning *A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles* was begun. In response to a question regarding terminology, Rev. Samuel Nafzger, Assistant Executive Secretary of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, explained that the words "for study and response" were used in relation to relatively new documents prepared by the commission. The words "for reference and guidance" were used for those documents to which reactions had been received. In the discussion which followed the introduction of the resolution, the delegates declined to consider Overture 3-57A (CW 79) as a substitute resolution. A motion was then made and seconded to substitute Overture 3-64A (CW 82) for Res. 3-05. After a call for a counting of the votes, it was determined by a vote of 498—497 that the convention would consider this substitute resolution. Time, however, expired before the substitute resolution could be considered.

Constitutional Matters

Dr. Edmund Happel, chairman of the floor committee on Constitutional Matters, introduced Res. 5-03 (TB 102), which called for a clarification of the relationship of the President of the Synod and the Council of Presidents. Prior to beginning the discussion, the committee added the words "three times each year and in addition" after the word "meet" and before "at" in line 15 (TB 103). An amendment adding the words "or at the request of one third of the Council of Presidents" at the end of line 16 (TB 103) was adopted. The convention, however, declined to replace the words "his representatives in the Districts" with the words "the District Presidents" in line 18 (TB 103). The resolution was then adopted as amended.

After striking the words "to admonish and" and "and directions" from line 30 (TB 105) and adding the phrase "while acknowledging the congregation's right to exercise the Office of the Keys according to the Holy Scriptures" after the words "Resolved, That" in line 64 (TB 105), the delegates adopted Res. 5-06 (TB 105), which asked that counsel be given to congregations which have called and installed pastors who are ineligible and undorsed for ministry in the Synod.

Discussion of Res. 5-07 (TB 106) was begun. This resolution called for clarification of the status of Missouri Synod clergy persons called by congregations as assistant pastors who serve as Seminex professors. Time for consideration of this resolution expired before action could be taken.

Closing

The morning session closed with a word of benediction spoken by Dr. Preus.

Session 7

July 8, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

After the singing of "A Mighty Fortress," the delegates listened to the reading of 1 Cor. 1 by the Rev. Samuel Nafzger, Assistant Executive Secretary of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. He

asked the delegates to join in praying the prayer found in the *Convention Workbook*, page 47. The minutes of Sessions 3 and 4 were adopted as amended.

Social Ministry

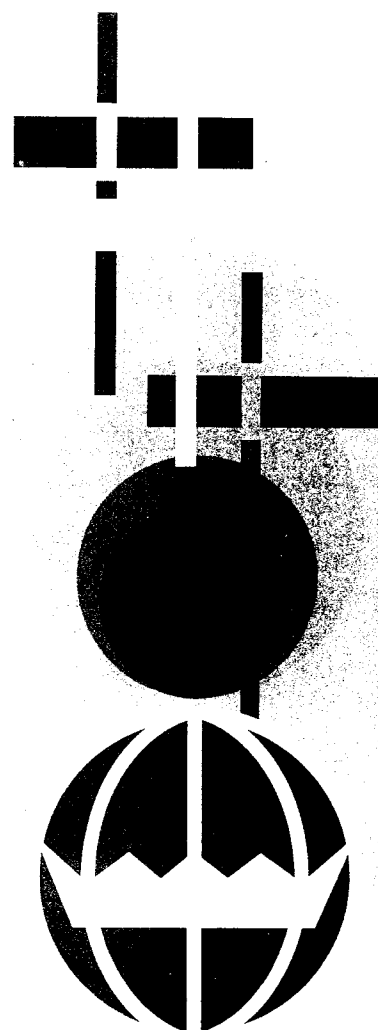
Resolutions of the floor committee on Social Ministry were introduced by the chairman of the committee, Dr. George Rode. Resolution 8-06 (TB 168), calling for expansion of Project Compassion by exploring new areas where volunteer skills could be utilized by designing materials and developing projects, was adopted. Before presenting Res. 8-07 (TB 169) the words "in the cities" were deleted from line 16 (TB 169). By adopting this resolution the convention asked the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to inform Districts and congregations of means for creating and improving housing. They also asked that the church support efforts of the government to provide employment opportunities and welfare assistance on a national and local scale and asked the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to develop suggestions for assisting congregations and their pastors in dealing with problems related to unemployment (Res. 8-08, TB 169). Before adopting Res. 8-09 (TB 170), calling for an emphasis on concern for mental health on the part of pastors and congregations, the delegates adopted several amendments. The first amendment added a resolved which stated: "Resolved, That the Synod encourage both pastors and lay members to work within their communities to support the efforts of the community mental health centers in educating their communities toward mental health understanding and services, in urging their communities to fund programs for cost sharing, in supporting the efforts to have mental health programs and services within their neighborhoods." An additional whereas was added on line 21 (TB 120) stating: "WHEREAS, Pastoral counseling centers are also being founded and their services expanding in the community; and." They also added the words "and pastoral counseling" after the word "health" and before "healing" in line 26. A motion to add the resolution "and be it further Resolved, That the church offer Christ as the answer to the needs of people with mental health problems" was declined. Resolution 8-09 (TB 170) was then adopted as amended.

The floor committee introduced Res. 8-10 (TB 170), calling for the delegates to affirm the sanctity of life. Before presenting the resolution, the word "indiscriminate" before the word "euthanasia" was stricken, line 48 (TB 170). The delegates accepted an amendment adding the word "sexist" after the word "racist" in line 52 (TB 170). An amendment calling for the elimination of the word "indiscriminate" and the addition of "for reasons other than medical" after the word "abortion" in line 48 was presented from the floor. The delegates then declined a motion to table Res. 8-10 (TB 170) because Res. 3-23A (TB 244) would deal with a similar matter. Time for discussion of the resolution expired before the amendment could be acted on.

Missions

Dr. Richard Schlecht, chairman of the floor committee on Missions, introduced Mrs. Florence Montz, president

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**JESUS
CHRIST
IS LORD**

of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, to the convention. She brought greetings from the 200,000 members of the league. In her remarks she said that we often speak of the good old days, but if a choice were given to her, she would choose now as the time to live. There are tremendous opportunities to serve the Lord in the present day. She stated that the LWML is alive, well, and working, and will be holding its international convention in Minneapolis in the near future. The theme for this convention will be "Saints, Arise." At the close of her remarks, Mrs. Montz presented a new series of "mustard seeds" to Dr. Preus.

Following the adoption of Res. 2-03 (TB 33), which commended the Synod's workers in the world's mission fields and asked the Synod to expand and increase its support for mission work, Pastor Wilbern Michalk presented a check for \$1,000 to Dr. Preus and the Synod as a mission contribution from his congregation. Resolution 2-04A (TB 236), a substitute for Res. 2-04 (TB 33), calling for a study of the possibility of beginning mission work in Angola and Mozambique, was adopted by the delegates. They also asked for an enlargement of mission work among the North American Indians and commended Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska, for initiating specialized training for Indian ministry (Res. 2-05, TB 34).

The floor committee on Missions then introduced Res. 2-06 (TB 34), asking the convention to ratify the opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters regarding campus ministry. The convention declined to consider Overture 2-30A (CW 37) as a substitute motion. Time for consideration of this resolution expired before final action could be taken on it.

Elections

The Rev. Albert Marcis, chairman of the floor committee on Elections, announced additional election results (attached to the Minutes), distributed additional election ballots, and explained the procedures for election. He offered a corrected report on the elections for the Board for Missions, which now indicated that only one pastoral member had been elected since Dr. Waldo Werning had not received a majority as had been previously reported.

During the distribution of the ballots a motion was made and adopted by the convention asking guests not to applaud during the discussion of resolutions.

Chairman Marcis declared this session of the elections closed.

Administration

Dr. Elwood Zimmermann, chairman of the floor committee on Administration, introduced Res. 4-02A (TB 257) as a substitute for Res. 4-02 (TB 72). This resolution called for dissolution of the English District. While presenting this resolution, he also called attention to a minority proposal prepared by seven members of the committee and found on page 259 of *Today's Business*. At this point he called upon Mr. Philip Draheim, legal counsel for the Synod, who read a position paper of the Board of Directors of the Synod which outlined a proce-

cedure to be followed in solving any disagreement which might occur if the convention should adopt the resolution for dissolution of the English District and the English District felt compelled to oppose this action of the convention. Because of the timetable involved in such a procedure, the date of January 15, 1976, was changed to July 15, 1976, in lines 47, 50, and 56 of *Today's Business*.

By adopting a motion made after a point of privilege had been granted, the delegates approved distribution of this position paper to the convention. By another point of privilege the President of the English District, Harold Hecht, was permitted to address the convention. In his remarks he stated that the question before the delegates was how we would deal with one another. It was his opinion that passing this resolution would take away a ministry from a large segment of people.

The delegates then declined to consider Overture 3-41 (CW 74-75) as a substitute motion. By a vote of 473-517 they also declined to consider the minority proposal (TB 259) as a substitute motion. Following further discussion, a vote was taken on the resolution for dissolution of the English District. The resolution was declined.

Elections

Chairman Marcis of the Elections committee stated that no majority had been received in the election for the second position of pastor on the Board for Missions. The vote in the election was as follows: Gruell-340, Meyer-229, Lavalais-289, Werning-532. In accordance with the election procedure, the delegates would be asked to vote on the three candidates who had received the largest number of votes.

Constitutional Matters

Chairman of the floor committee on Constitutional Matters, Dr. Edmund Happel, reintroduced Res. 5-02A (TB 202), on which discussion had not been completed in a previous session. This resolution asked that District Presidents who had ordained or authorized ordination of persons who were not properly endorsed be dealt with.

Elections

Before beginning discussion of Res. 5-02A (TB 202) elections for the Board for Missions were declared closed.

Constitutional Matters

Dr. Preus informed the convention delegates that he had given the eight District Presidents affected by Res. 5-02A (TB 202) permission to speak under the 2-minute rule. After several of them had spoken but not completed their statements, the delegates agreed to a motion asking that time be allotted for the Presidents to complete their statements even though this exceeded 2 minutes. The District Presidents who addressed the convention, stating their reasons for the actions which they had taken, were Frincke, Hecht, Neunaber, Jaech, Jacobs, Meyer, Ressmeyer, and Riedel. The convention agreed to extend time for consideration of this resolution and asked the President of the Synod to respond to the statements of the District Presidents.

Point of Order

Responding to a point of order which stated that the President should relinquish the chair if he intended to participate in the debate, Dr. Preus indicated that if the delegates believed that he was participating in it, they would have the opportunity to make this request.

Constitutional Matters

President Preus spoke to the convention delegates, referring to sections of the synodical *Handbook* which he felt made it necessary for the convention to deal with this matter. He stated that he was ready to ask for withdrawal of Res. 5-02A if the District Presidents involved were now ready to walk with the Synod and abide by its Constitution. A number of Vice-Presidents of the Synod, as well as other District Presidents, were then allowed to address the delegates.

Elections

Chairman Marcis of the floor committee on Elections reported that in the election for the Board for Missions the vote had been as follows: Werning—448, Lavalais—188, Gruell—373. The name of Lavalais was then removed from the ballot, and delegates were asked to vote on the remaining two candidates. After the distribution of ballots and voting by the delegates, Chairman Marcis declared the election for the Board for Missions closed.

Orders of the Day

President Preus informed the delegates that discussion of Res. 5-02A (TB 202) would continue the next day. The convention also agreed to resume its business sessions at 8:30 a.m. and to resume discussion of Res. 5-02A at that time.

Closing

The convention session was closed with the Aaronic Benediction spoken by Dr. Preus.



The presidents of the LWML and the ILLC:
Florence Montz and Gus Melde

Session 8

July 9, Morning

Opening

The morning session opened with small-group Bible study, song, and prayer. In keeping with the resolution of the previous day, Dr. Preus called the session to order at 8:30 and led the delegates in prayer. Missionary Paul Bartling, who had become ill and was hospitalized, was included in the prayer.

Orders of the Day

The chairman announced that Committee 5, the floor committee on Constitutional Matters, would present its resolutions between 8:45 and 9:45. The agenda for the day would then be followed with the evening session devoted to the work of Floor Committees 9 and 3. Dr. Harkins would speak to the convention delegates early in the afternoon session.

Announcements

The Committee on Convention Arrangements announced that for the safety of all concerned visitors would be restricted to the gallery.

Elections

Chairman Marcis of the floor committee on Elections reviewed the sequence in balloting for the Board for Missions and announced that the Rev. Eugene F. Gruell had received a majority of the 1,056 votes cast. The tally showed Gruell—557, Werning—499. The convention then granted the Committee on Elections approval for destroying the ballots and dismissed the committee with thanks since its work was now completed.

Constitutional Matters

Discussion of Res. 5-02A (TB 202) was resumed as had been directed by the convention at its last session. Dr. Preus announced that some of the Presidents would be allowed to speak and then discussion would come from the floor. A motion to adopt the procedure of hearing one pastor pro and con and one layman pro and con in sequence was adopted. Dr. Oliver Harms, Past President of the Synod, and Dr. Edwin Weber, First Vice-President of the Synod, addressed the delegates briefly. A motion from the floor asking that five more District Presidents be heard was declined by the convention. Dr. Edmund Happel, chairman of the floor committee on Constitutional Matters, again spoke of the reasons for the presentation of this resolution. He stated that there was no animosity among the members of the Council of Presidents. Rev. George Wollenburg, President of the Montana District and a member of the committee, spoke to the delegates of the difference between the authority of the pastoral office and that of the District President.

Point of Information

Responding to a point of information, Dr. Preus indicated that the *Handbook* is still applicable even if the resolution before the house was declined.

Constitutional Matters

Continuing discussion of Res. 5-02A (TB 202), the convention declined to change the standing rules of the convention and to limit speaking to one minute. The delegates then adopted a resolution asking that New Orleans Res. 3-09 be printed and placed in the hands of the delegates by noon if possible. A petition from the Eastern District with some 5,000 signatures calling on its President to resist and oppose any action which would depose him from office or force him to act contrary to the directions of the Eastern District convention was presented to the delegates. A motion asking that the media be respectfully requested not to televise proceedings of the morning session was declined. After 30 minutes of discussion had elapsed, the question was called and debate was terminated by a vote of 711—334. In response to a question from the floor, Rev. Rudolph Ressmeyer, President of the Atlantic District, informed the convention that the eight District Presidents affected by Res. 5-02A had stated their position previously. This position had not changed. A motion asking for vote by ballot on the resolution was declined as was a resolution to divide the question. The resolution was then adopted by a vote of 626—466. [In Session 11 a delegate asked that the following be included at this point in the Minutes: On a point of order that for removal from office a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority is required, the chair ruled that this is not a motion to remove from office.]

Statements

Following adoption of the resolution, President Emil Jaech, President of the Northwest District, representing the District Presidents affected by this resolution, was granted the privilege of reading a statement to the convention. In it he stated that the District Presidents whom he was representing felt that the convention had erred in their judgment. They felt compelled to act as they had in the past, but they also pledged themselves to work toward a resolution of the problems which face the Synod.

In commenting on the passage of the resolution, Dr. Preus stated that the resolution calls for patience and brotherly and fraternal administration. He described it as a resolution which allows time to pass and asked the Synod to include a prayer that God would grant wisdom and charity so that no one would act in any other manner.

Orders of the Day

Since considerable time had elapsed in the discussion of Res. 5-02A, the orders of the day were changed so that one hour and 20 minutes would be devoted to the work of the floor committee on Higher Education and one-half hour to the floor committee on Parish Services in the morning session. After dividing the question, the delegates declined to have either negative or positive votes recorded in the convention *Proceedings* but asked that the statement of Rev. Jaech be included in them.

Higher Education

Dr. Ellis Nieting, chairman of the floor committee on

Higher Education, introduced Res. 6-05 (TB 134), which called for clarification of the status of Seminex graduates. Prior to discussion of the resolution the word "certified" in line 30 (TB 134) was changed to "endorsed." A substitute motion to replace Res. 6-05 (TB 134) with Overture 6-44A (CW 331) with the addition of the words to the overture, "and be it further *Resolved*, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters prepare such by-laws which will implement this resolution and present them for approval at the 1977 convention of the Synod," was declared by the chair to be equivalent to a resolution for reconsideration of a resolution previously passed by the convention. No resolution for reconsideration was introduced.

Announcement

At this point the Committee on Convention Arrangements announced that the gallery would have to be cleared if the guests did not cooperate.

Higher Education

After agreeing to terminate debate, the convention then adopted Res. 6-05 (TB 134). After introducing Res. 6-06 (TB 134) asking Concordia Seminary-in-Exile to desist from the use of this name, the words "is illegal" in lines 56 and 57 (TB 134) were replaced by the word "deplores." After declining to delete the words "authorized to take such action as might be" in line 61 and all of line 62 (TB 134) and replace them with the words "directed to encourage this institution," the convention adopted the resolution.

Resolution 6-07A (TB 247), a substitute for Res. 6-07 (TB 135), asking for a number of actions which would establish the future development of the synodical educational system, was introduced. Dr. Nieting stated that this resolution was dealing with overall directives for a higher education system relating to student enrollment, costs, and other factors. A substitute resolution was presented to the convention. A motion to cease debate failed to receive the required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. The convention then agreed to follow the orders of the day.

Parish Services

Rev. Wilbert Griesse, chairman of the floor committee on Parish Services, introduced Mr. Gus Melde, chairman of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. In his remarks to the convention Mr. Melde thanked the delegates for transferring the television ministry to the International Lutheran Laymen's League. He directed the attention of the convention to *Convention Workbook* page 429 and its description of the work of the organization. During the past year this organization has maintained its budget and oversubscribed it, a budget in excess of \$6,000,000. He also referred to the tremendous need to get the Gospel out to the world and reminded the delegates that they are members of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. He asked them to support the continuation and expansion of the programs of the league.

After adding the words "and congregations" after the word "Directors" and before "of" in line 19 (TB 154), Res.



7-08 (TB 154), encouraging subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness*, was adopted. The convention also approved a resolution encouraging attendance at youth gatherings after adding: "Resolved, That our Districts and circuits be encouraged to arrange youth gatherings and programs at their levels" (Res. 7-09, TB 154).

Resolution 7-10 (TB 155), calling for intensification and expansion of education for mission and promotion of the programs of the Synod, was introduced. An amendment adding the resolved that "all congregational materials be sent to congregations rather than the pastors" was not acted on since time for discussion of this resolution had expired.

Closing

The morning session was closed with the Apostolic Benediction.

Session 9

July 9, Afternoon

Opening

Dr. Arthur Ahlschwede, Executive Secretary of the Board for Higher Education, led the opening devotion for the afternoon session. After reading selected passages from Eph. 4, he led the delegates in prayer, including a prayer for the family of Donaldo Schueler, delegate from Brazil. The family had been involved in a serious automobile accident.

Orders of the Day

The chairman indicated that the orders of the day would be followed as presented in the morning session.

Guests

The convention adopted a resolution which allowed

guests to sit alongside the convention floor and asked that they remain quiet during the discussion of resolutions.

Minutes

The minutes for the afternoon session of July 7 and the morning session of July 8 were adopted as amended.

LCUSA

Dr. George Harkins, General Secretary of the Lutheran Council in the United States of America, was presented to the convention by the chairman. Dr. Harkins stated that he wished to emphasize three things in his remarks to the delegates. (1) LCUSA is responsive to the concerns of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Although adjustments have had to be made in the program of LCUSA because of the withdrawal of financial support by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in some areas, he expressed the respect of the Council for the views of the Synod which had helped to create the Council and has helped to shape it. (2) LCUSA is flexible to change. As new problems arise, the Council has taken action to meet these problems. Dr. Harkins referred especially to the activities of Dr. August Bernthal in relation to the settlement of refugees from Vietnam as an example of the Council's response to changing problems. (3) LCUSA is dedicated to renewal and service. Dr. Harkins stated that Lutherans are in a position to help one another and that he was addressing the convention as a friend, fellow Lutheran, and partner in service. President Preus responded with thanks for the remarks of Dr. Harkins.

Standing Rules

The convention amended the standing rules of the convention by agreeing to limit individuals speaking from the floor to one minute. When the ruling of the chair that the motion had passed by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ vote was challenged, the delegates declined the request for a count.

Theology and Church Relations

Dr. August T. Mennicke, chairman of the floor committee on Theology and Church Relations, reintroduced Res. 3-05 (TB 47), asking for clarification concerning *A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles*. The delegates asked to hear from Dr. Arnold Kuntz of the Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Conciliation. He stated that his remarks were not to be considered as official and that a 200-plus-page report would be sent to the President of the Synod at the end of the month, reporting on the work of the committee. He pointed out that the committee had come to recognize clearly that decisions had to be made but that he also felt that we have the time to make them. We do have doctrinal problems. Another problem, however, which faces us is that participants in the debates are often locked into their positions. Partyism and insistence to win is a prior problem which must be overcome. After the question had been called, the convention rejected Overture 3-64A as a substitute and returned to Res. 3-05. After the question had been called for, Res. 3-05 was adopted. After making



several changes in the resolution, Res. 3-06 (TB 49), asking the Synod to declare its position on Evangelical Lutherans in Mission, was introduced to the floor. The following changes were made: In line 11 (TB 49) the word "preamble" was changed to "historical background." In line 63 (TB 49) the words "(entitled ELIM)" were moved to a position after the word "pamphlet." In line 73 (TB 51) the words "establishment and" were stricken after the word "seminary" and "its establishment of a" were inserted between "seminary" and "competing." A motion to return to the 2-minute rule was declined by the delegates as was an amendment asking for the inclusion of Balance, Inc., and *Affirm* in those sentences in which ELIM was spoken of as being a divisive influence.

Points of Privilege

The convention granted President Preus a point of privilege to speak. In his remarks he indicated that he would be very happy to have this resolution withdrawn and asked for words from leaders of ELIM which would indicate that they were ready to walk together with the Synod.

Dr. C. Thomas Spitz was granted the privilege of speaking for ELIM. In his remarks he stated that he wanted and intended to remain a loyal member of the Synod. He would not leave the Synod unless he was forced to leave as a result of actions coming from the adoption of this resolution. The delegates agreed to termination of the discussion after the 30 minutes allowed for it had expired. After agreeing to extend time for completion of the action on this resolution, the delegates declined a motion to table the matter. Before voting on the resolution the delegates were asked to join in silent prayer. The resolution was then adopted by a vote of 601—473.

Point of Order

Debora Hage, a delegate from the Colorado District, asked that it be recorded in the minutes that prior to the taking of the vote the chairman had used the phrase "after this resolution is passed." President Preus also asked that it be recorded in the minutes that he had

apologized and begged the forgiveness of the delegates for this slip of the tongue. He had meant to say "after this resolution has been acted on." In response to a question, he also stated that negative votes could be submitted to the Secretary.

Recess

Following the singing of two stanzas of the hymn "I Walk in Danger All the Way" the chairman declared a 15-minute recess.

Parish Services

After the delegates had reconvened, chairman of the floor committee on Parish Services, the Rev. Wilbert Griesse, reintroduced Res. 7-10 (TB 155). After adopting the pending amendment which asked for mailings of all synodical materials to congregations, the delegates adopted the resolution as amended.

The convention asked the Board of Parish Education to intensify its efforts to produce quality stewardship cultivation materials for congregations and for the provision of sufficient funding for these intensified efforts (Res. 7-11, TB 156). They encouraged congregations to conduct every-member stewardship visits and asked that funds be made available to the Board of Stewardship to provide for production of materials for the conducting of every-member stewardship visitation seminars (Res. 7-12, TB 156). Congregations were asked to encourage families to avail themselves of the money-management programs sponsored by District and synodical leaders and other agencies (Res. 7-13, TB 157). After declining a motion to recommit the matter to the floor committee, the delegates adopted Res. 7-14 (TB 158), which asked for a reaffirmation of the Synod's process of doctrinal review. They took this action after an amendment asking for the addition of "and doctrinal resolutions of the Synod" was declared to be out of order since it would in effect require a change in the Constitution of the Synod. They also declined to add the words "and who are reflective of all established doctrinal views in the Synod" at the end of the resolution.

Point of Order

The chairman was asked by a delegate not to give instructions to the delegates prior to voting.

Higher Education

Resolution 6-07A (TB 247) was reintroduced by Dr. Ellis Nieting, chairman of the floor committee on Higher Education. After agreeing to add the words "most of them" between the words "faculty" and "pastorally" on line 12 (TB 248) and declining a motion for adjournment, the convention agreed to terminate debate on the resolution. Resolution 6-07A (TB 247) was then adopted as amended. The delegates then agreed to close this session of the convention prior to the introduction of Res. 6-08A (TB 248).

Closing

The session closed with a prayer led by Dr. Nickel, Third Vice-President of the Synod.

Session 10

July 9, Evening

Opening

Dr. Preus declared this session open in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and led the delegates in prayer for various people who were ill or who were experiencing problems and asked for the guidance of the Holy Spirit on the convention as it made its decisions.

Sundry Matters

Dr. Fred Niedner, chairman of the floor committee on Sundry Matters, introduced Res. 9-01 (TB 175) to the delegates. After substituting the word "authorize" for the word "supervise" in line 18 (TB 175) and after moving "a)" to a position after the word "funding" in line 22 (TB 175), the delegates adopted this resolution, which called for an observance of the Black Centennial of ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod among black brothers and for a Synodwide thankoffering for funding the development of this celebration program. It also encouraged funding for the recruitment and financing of the training of black professional church workers. They urged all congregations of the Synod to participate fully in the observance of the bicentennial of our nation's birth and to use the materials provided by the American Bicentennial Committee (Res. 9-02, TB 175). By adoption of Res. 9-03 (TB 176) the convention amended the Bylaws of the synodical *Handbook* relating to the work of the Armed Forces Commission. Bylaw 5-31 k, stating that records of appeals cases be kept in locked files, was changed by the adoption of Res. 9-04 (TB 177), placing these records in the custody of the Concordia Historical Institute. In line 19 (TB 177) the number "5.41" was changed to "15.41."

Bylaw 11.25 e was amended to provide for archives' copies of certain synodical publications (Res. 9-05, TB 178). A change in Bylaw 3.19 eliminated the Excuse Committee for District conventions (Res. 9-06, TB 178). The resolution was adopted after the committee had changed the words "are encouraged to" to "shall" in line 10 (TB 179). By the adoption of Res. 9-07 (TB 179) the delegates admonished the secular and religious press to avoid malicious and slanderous attacks against synodical officials and other brethren who have been vilified and attacked due to false information. In the same resolution it expressed its regrets to those who have been vilified and encouraged those who have been guilty of such unchristian acts to repent and to ask forgiveness of those whom they had offended. This action was taken after a motion to refer the resolution back to the committee was declined and after the delegates had also declined an amendment asking for inclusion of the words "and the eight District Presidents specifically" in line 38 (TB 179). In response to a question from the floor, Dr. Preus indicated that the best way to avoid such attacks would be by self-control on the part of those who are making such attacks and by respect for brothers and sisters in the faith.

The convention expressed thanks and support of synodical officials and assured them of its continued prayers

and support of their work in behalf of the church (Res. 9-08, TB 179). During consideration of the resolution the convention declined to substitute the words "all persons involved in synodical differences" for the words "our synodical officials" in line 56 (TB 179), the words "many brothers and sisters" for the words "our synodical officials" in line 62 (TB 179), and to insert the words "and all other persons involved in our various controversies" between the word "officials" and "and" in line 68 (TB 179). They also urged congregations to follow synodical procedures in the calling of pastors and teachers (Res. 9-09, TB 180). After substituting the words "St. Louis" for the words "(801 DeMun)" in lines 39 and 52 (TB 180), Res. 9-10 (TB 180), advising the Rev. Herman Otten to apply to the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for certification into the ministerium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was introduced. A motion to substitute Overture 9-12A (CW 411) was declared by the chair to be out of order. The delegates then adopted the resolution. They also declined to consider overtures relative to *Christian News* since the Council of Presidents had acted in good faith and given its rationale for the repudiation of this publication (Res. 9-11, TB 181).

After declining to consider Overture 9-09 (CW 411) as a substitute resolution, the delegates discouraged congregations from becoming involved in lawsuits for the settlement of differences which might arise within them and asked them to use every avenue available within our fellowship to achieve reconciliation (Res. 9-12, TB 181).

Theology and Church Relations

After one of the delegates had expressed his apologies to Dr. Preus and Dr. Preus responded by saying that no apology was necessary, Dr. August Mennicke, chairman of the floor committee on Theology and Church Relations, introduced Res. 3-07 (TB 53), which urged congregations to examine their existing structures and procedures in order to develop plans to make any changes in personnel and other matters which would enable them to utilize the gifts which God has given to women. This resolution was adopted by the delegates. After striking the words "as necessary" at the end of line 27 (TB 54) Res. 3-08 commending the Task Force on Women was presented to the convention. This resolution called for assignment of the goals and plans of the task force to the Social Concerns Committee of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations for study and implementation and for the use of task force members as consultants by this committee. After hearing several different opinions from women who were involved with the task force, which had been established at the previous convention, the delegates agreed to amend the resolution by striking the last resolved and replacing it with "Resolved, That the task force be continued for 2 years of further study and report to the 1977 convention." The resolution was then adopted as amended. After declining a motion to refer the matter back to the committee for a new resolution by 9:00 a.m. Friday and an amendment to delete the words "and that we decline all overtures which call for a division of the Synod" in line 56 (TB 54), as well as the words "continue to" in line 55 (TB 54), the delegates

adopted Res. 3-09 (TB 54) and thereby declined all overtures which called for a division of the Synod. This action was taken after the convention had also declined a resolution calling for a separate decision on each of the two resolves in the resolution.

Orders of the Day

After declining a call to follow the orders of the day in the session scheduled for Thursday, the delegates agreed to adjourn the present session at 10:00 p.m. and to begin the next session at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday.

Theology and Church Relations

The floor committee on Theology and Church Relations asked the delegates to insert the words "do not" in line 35 (TB 55) of Res. 3-10.

Closing

Closing devotion for the evening session was led by Dr. Melvin Kieschnick, Executive Secretary of the Board of Parish Education.

Session 11

July 10, Morning

Opening

After the delegates had joined in small-group Bible study, song, and prayer, President Preus called the delegates to order.

Orders of the Day

After announcing that 206 resolutions still remained to be acted on, Dr. Preus indicated that there were certain resolutions which would need action and that the order of importance of these resolutions had been determined after consultation with the various floor committees. He then announced to the delegates the listing of the resolutions which would be presented if time permitted.

Constitutional Matters

Chairman of the floor committee on Constitutional Matters, Dr. Edmund Happel, reintroduced Res. 5-07 (TB 106), on which action had not been completed. This resolution asked for a clarification of the status of Missouri Synod clergy persons who are called by congregations as assistant pastors to serve as Seminex professors. Dr. C. T. Spitz, who had requested the floor when discussion of this resolution was resumed, was not present. After declining to strike the word "Seminex" in the title and body of the resolution, Res. 5-07 (TB 106) was adopted by a vote of 565—411. An advisory delegate, protesting to the noninclusion of Res. 3-10 (TB 55), was advised that he could file his protest with the Secretary of the Synod.

Referral

Dr. Edmund Happel, chairman of the floor committee on Constitutional Matters, stated that Overtures 5-66A—E (CW 235) had been referred to the task force for study of the structure and organization of the Synod.



Some of the hardworking tellers

Constitutional Matters

By the adoption of Res. 5-35 (TB 121), Berea-by-the-Water Lutheran Church, Goderich, Ontario, was received into the membership of the Synod. Resolution 5-36 (TB 121) was withdrawn from consideration because the Missouri District had not yet approved the constitution of Trinity, Bridgeton, Missouri. By adoption of Res. 5-37 (TB 121), Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Davie, Florida, was received into membership with the Synod. After changing the word "layman" in line 27 (TB 112) and adopting an amendment which changed the wording in line 27 to read "exercised by one pastor and one layperson properly elected," the delegates decided to recommit this resolution (Res. 5-21) to the floor committee. In response to a question regarding the eligibility of ELIM members as delegates at the next convention, Dr. August T. Mennicke stated that in his opinion "neither the intention nor the wording of Res. 3-06 condemns membership in ELIM. As long as an individual is a member of the Synod, that individual is eligible for delegate status at a convention of the Synod."

Resolution 5-08 (TB 106), asking the convention to support the opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters relating to the removal of District Presidents from office, was introduced to the floor. During discussion of this resolution, the delegates declined to consider Overture 5-111 (CW 248) as a substitute. In response to a request for information, Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, stated that District Presidents and Circuit Counselors are considered to be officers of the Synod. The delegates then declined to recommit this resolution to the floor committee. In response to another question from the floor regarding ways to protect people from harassment, Dr. Preus indicated that his answer would be the same as that which had been previously given in the convention. After a motion to declare Res. 5-08 (TB 106) out of order, since a previous resolution had dealt with this matter, was declared out of order by the chair, the delegates adopted the resolution by a vote of 514—436.

Point of Order

On a point of order a motion was made, seconded, and adopted asking for closer restrictions on floor commit-

tees, so that they would not direct the delegates in their voting.

Orders of the Day

Responding to a motion of privilege, the delegates declined to meet in small-group discussions for one hour at the beginning of the afternoon session but agreed to meet from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the next day for group discussions.

Administration

Dr. Elwood Zimmermann, chairman of the floor committee on Administration, announced that Res. 4-23 (TB 88) had been withdrawn and that the transfer of Sherman Park, Milwaukee, from the South Wisconsin to the English District should be added to Res. 4-01 (TB 72). The delegates agreed to this action. After Res. 4-42 (TB 214), asking that the 1977 convention of the Synod be held in St. Louis, was introduced to the floor, the delegates adopted a substitute motion which was offered during the ensuing discussion. The resolved of line 51 (TB 214) was replaced with the words "Resolved, That the invitation of the Texas District to hold the 1977 convention of the Synod in Dallas, Texas, be accepted." Designation of the site of the convention was determined by a vote of 493—388. Resolution 4-10 (TB 80) was withdrawn from consideration by common consent after the delegates had agreed to add a final resolution which stated: "Resolved, That *Advance* be sent only to those who subscribe," and after the convention had declined to consider a substitute motion for the discontinuation of the publication of *Advance*.

Resolution 4-11 (TB 80), calling for termination of the Commission on Mission and Ministry in the Church, was adopted.

Point of Information

In response to a question from the floor relating to the use of subscription lists, Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, stated that a policy of the Board of Directors for use of these lists did exist. The delegate who had asked the question requested the committee to address itself to the matter of the use of these lists in reconsidering Res. 4-10 (TB 80).

Administration

By adopting a change in the Bylaws (Res. 4-13, TB 82), the convention defined the membership of the Board for Church Extension more accurately. After changing the words "to permit" to "to respect the right of" in line 5 (TB 84) of the subject of the resolution, the delegates agreed that the right of minorities to answer their own problems should be respected (Res. 4-16, TB 84). They took this action after declining to consider Overture 4-44 (CW 191) as a substitute resolution.

Higher Education

Dr. Ellis Nieting, chairman of the floor committee on Higher Education, introduced Res. 6-08A (TB 248), which called for the initiation of action for the continued development of the synodical higher education system.

After explaining the reasons for the conclusions of the committee he stated that the resolution would be divided in order to discuss each of the resolveds separately. During the discussion which followed the convention declined a motion which requested the floor committee to respond only when it was asked direct questions and that when it was asked for information it limit itself strictly to supplying that information in its response. Time for discussion of this resolution expired before action could be taken on it.

Closing

The morning session closed with the singing of a hymn and the benediction.

Session 12

July 10, Afternoon

Opening

Mrs. Jean Garton, chairman of the Task Force on Women, led the delegates in an opening devotion in which she spoke of God's handicapped children, His aged children, and His unborn children. The delegates were led in prayer for each of these groups of people. Members of the choir of the Good Shepherd Home of Terra Bella, California, provided the music for the devotion.

Greetings

A telegram from the President of the United States, Gerald Ford, bringing his greetings to the convention, was read to the delegates by Dr. Preus.

Minutes

After changing the name "Vernon" to "Wilbern" in line 72 (TB 297) and adding a point of order at line 11 (TB 301) which stated that "in response to a point of order that for removal from office a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority is required, the chairman ruled that this is not a motion to remove from office," the minutes for Sessions 7 and 8 of the convention were adopted.

Recognitions

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, asked the convention to honor the Rev. Albert Galen and Dr. Martin W. Mueller for their work in association with the *Lutheran Witness*. Dr. Martin Mueller was not present to receive the personal recognition. Dr. Herman Koppelman, a long-time member of the Board for Missions staff, was honored with a special plaque prepared by the Lutheran Church in Korea. A copy of the citation on the plaque was read by President Preus. Dr. Koppelman then addressed the convention briefly, thanking them for the privilege of serving the Synod. Recognition was being given to these men as they retired from office.

Orders of the Day

Dr. Preus indicated that one-half hour each would be devoted to Committees 13, 5, 7, 1, and 2 and that Committees 4 and 6 would present their resolutions in the evening session.



Visitors Gallery

Work Program Review

Dr. Elwood Zimmermann, chairman of the Work Program Review floor committee, stated that part of the work of Committee 13 had already been handled under Res. 4-05 (TB 76). He then introduced Res. 13-01 (TB 189), in which the delegates were asked to set the work programs for 1976 and 1977. After declining a motion to defer action until after the consideration of Res. 6-08 had been completed, the delegates adopted the resolution. In the discussion prior to adoption Dr. L. Lloyd Behnken, President of the Florida-Georgia District, who is working with a group called "Laity in Action," reported on the work of this group. This group is attempting to work with specific individuals to provide an opportunity for them to contribute funds to enable the Synod to secure the necessary means to carry out its programs. Dr. Behnken indicated that Mr. Ben Jutzi was putting forth a tremendous effort to move this program into action. In response to a number of questions, Mr. John Schuelke, Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors of the Synod, indicated that after the first few months of this year income in the Synod is slightly above that of 1974 after certain adjustments are made. He asked that certain questions relating to the move of synodical headquarters from 210 North Broadway to 500 North Broadway be deferred until Dr. Milton Carpenter, Treasurer of the Synod, would be present to answer them.

Legal Matters

Mr. Philip Draheim, legal counsel for the Synod, stated that during the discussion of Res. 5-07 (TB 106) certain comments and answers to questions which had arisen might cause confusion so that an argument could

be advanced to the detriment of those men who might be engaged by congregations of the Synod to serve at Seminex. In order to clarify the matter, he read a prepared statement which was filed with the Secretary of the Synod.

Constitutional Matters

After striking the words "encouraged to" from line 22 (TB 107), Dr. Edmund Happel, chairman of the floor committee on Constitutional Matters, introduced Res. 5-09 (TB 107). The convention declined to consider Overture 5-162 (CW 264) as a substitute motion, as well as to change the words after "publish" in line 22 (TB 107) to read "all such of its opinions as do not violate the principle of confidentiality." After discussion, the resolution was adopted (Res. 5-09, TB 107). After Res. 5-10 (TB 107) was introduced to the convention, the delegates declined a motion asking that the resolution be returned to the floor committee until a protest entered by a delegate from the Atlantic District at the New Orleans convention had received a reply. After consultation with the parliamentarian of the New Orleans convention, Dr. Mark Steege, Dr. Preus informed the convention that the parliamentarian had answered this protest. After the question had been called for, Res. 5-10 (TB 107) was adopted.

Evangelism

Dr. Charles Mueller, chairman of the floor committee on Evangelism, stated that resolutions from this committee would be introduced by various members of the floor committee. By adopting Res. 1-06 (TB 24), Bylaws of the synodical *Handbook* were changed to add details to the

functions and duties of the Board for Evangelism. After adding the words "in the area of overseas evangelism" in line 22 (*TB 26*) between the words "position" and "was," the floor committee on Evangelism introduced Res. 1-07 (*TB 26*), which requested the Board of Directors of the Synod to authorize the calling of an additional staff person for the Board of Evangelism. The resolution was adopted by the delegates after they declined to consider a substitute resolution to request the Board of Directors to spend an equal amount of money to assist the sister churches overseas to carry out the evangelism task. After amending the resolution with an additional resolved reading: "*Resolved*, That our congregations and Districts seriously study the statements of the Lausanne covenant," and changing the word "man" to "person" in line 63 (*TB 26*), the delegates adopted Res. 1-08 (*TB 26*). The resolution as amended asked for consideration and study of the summary statements of the World Congress on Evangelism, as well as the statements of the Lausanne covenant. Resolution 1-09 (*TB 27*) was then adopted, commending colleges and seminaries which have implemented the teaching of the concept and practice of evangelism in their curricula and affirming that personal evangelism is not an optional activity for the members of the Synod. After adding the words "and circuit" after "District" and before "and" in line 29 (*TB 28*), the convention adopted Res. 1-10 (*TB 28*), which encouraged members of the Synod to participate in parish and community volunteer organizations which seek to reach people with special needs. This resolution asked the Board for Evangelism of the Synod, as well as those of the Districts, circuits, and congregations, to prepare a summary of volunteer agencies which provide opportunities for Christian service and evangelism. The convention also asked the Board for Evangelism to intensify its efforts to produce evangelism materials which are attractive, functional, and fully in accord with Lutheran doctrine and encouraged Concordia Publishing House to print and publish these materials (Res. 1-11, *TB 28*). It also asked the Board for Evangelism to continue to develop specialized literature and techniques for evangelizing persons belonging to anti-Christian sects and cults (Res. 1-12, *TB 29*). The adoption of Res. 1-13 (*TB 29*), which asked all congregations and pastors to follow up contacts made through the television ministry and the Lutheran Hour, brought considerations of resolutions from the floor committee on Evangelism to a close. The floor committee was dismissed with thanks for its work.

Parish Services

Rev. Wilbert Griesse, chairman of the floor committee on Parish Services, presented Res. 7-16 (*TB 159*) to the delegates. This resolution, which asked for support for the establishment of Lutheran schools by the Synod and all of its Districts, was adopted. The assembly encouraged representatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the Lutheran Council in the United States of America in cooperation with the Commission for Services to the Mentally Retarded to explore further cooperation and coordination of intersynodical ministries to the mentally retarded and to report their findings to the 1977

synodical convention (Res. 7-17, *TB 160*). Pastors and laymen were asked to assess Christian education needs in their respective congregations and to explore the possibilities of sharing a Director or Coordinator of Christian Education with other congregations of the Synod (Res. 7-18, *TB 160*). By adopting Res. 7-19 (*TB 161*) the Synod reaffirmed its mandate to the Board of Parish Education to continue the production of educational curricula. By common consent the words "based on Article II of the Constitution of the Synod and the Scriptures" were added at the end of the first resolved of Res. 7-15 (*TB 159*), and the word "consider" as the first word of line 28 (*TB 159*). The delegates then adopted Res. 7-15 (*TB 159*), encouraging publication of "New Life in Christ" Sunday school materials. After declining to eliminate the word "study" from the subject of Res. 7-20 (*TB 162*), the delegates adopted this resolution, which called for continued study of the use of Bible and Catechism versions in the educational materials of Concordia Publishing House and the Board of Parish Education. After extending time to complete the work of Floor Committee 7, the delegates agreed with the floor committee in declining overtures which asked that Concordia Publishing House be directed to publish Dr. William Beck's translation of the Old Testament (Res. 7-21, *TB 162*). The adoption of Res. 7-22 (*TB 163*), which encouraged pastors and teachers to utilize filmstrips of the "Concordia Catechism Series," brought consideration of resolutions from the floor committee on Parish Services to a close. It was stated that recommendations regarding letters of thanks (Res. 7-23) had been filed with the Secretary. Since this completed the work of this floor committee, they were dismissed with thanks.

Missions

Chairman Schlecht of the floor committee on Missions reintroduced Res. 2-06 (*TB 34*), which asked the delegates to ratify the Commission on Constitutional Matters' opinion regarding the campus ministry of the Synod. After considerable discussion and after first declining a motion to terminate debate by a vote of 448—470 and declining to consider Overture 2-30A (*CW 37*) as a substitute motion, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 556—439. After extending time for consideration of resolutions from the floor committee on Missions until adjournment, the delegates began consideration of Res. 2-07A (*TB 237*), replacing Res. 2-07 (*TB 35*). This resolution called for reaffirmation of the Synod's position on campus ministry. The delegates declined to consider Overture 2-22 (*CW 35*) as a substitute resolution, as well as a motion to strike the fourth whereas and the third and the sixth resolves (*TB 237*) from the resolution. After adopting an amendment adding the words "and applying the Communion guidelines of Lutheran military and institutional chaplains" at the end of the fourth resolved, line 42 (*TB 237*), the convention adopted the resolution as amended.

Closing

After singing several stanzas of the hymn "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" Dr. Preus closed the afternoon

session, leading the delegates in prayer, including a prayer for the Rev. Edwin H. Dubberke, a delegate who had been hospitalized.

Session 13

July 10, Evening

Opening

After the delegates had joined in singing "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" and praying Psalm 23, President Preus declared the evening session open in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Orders of the Day

It was announced that the session would be devoted to considering matters presented by the floor committees on Administration and Higher Education.

Administration

Dr. Elwood Zimmermann, chairman of the floor committee on Administration, introduced Dr. Milton Carpenter, Treasurer of the Synod, who was present to answer questions which had been raised earlier relating to the sale of the Commerce Building and other matters. After expressing his thanks to the delegates for their prayers for his wife, whose illness had prevented him from being present earlier, Dr. Carpenter provided detailed answers to a number of questions which were posed.

During the discussion the delegates declined a motion asking the President of the Synod, in consultation with the Vice-Presidents of the Synod, to appoint a committee to investigate the financial loss involved in the sale of the Commerce Building and to present a detailed report on this matter to the 1977 convention. They also received a statement from the floor committee on Administration which deplored the attacks which had been made on the Treasurer of the Synod. The convention expressed its appreciation for the work and report of the Treasurer with its applause.

After the words "the Task Force on Organization. (cf. Res. 5-01A)" had been inserted after the words "referred to" in line 24 (TB 213), Res. 4-24A was placed before the convention for consideration. This resolution urged the Southern California District, in consultation with the synodical Board for Missions, to call a director of Mission Development to explore the possibilities for mission work in the state of Arizona. After inserting the words "with the English District and" between the words "the" and "synodical" in the first resolved (TB 213), the resolution was adopted (Res. 4-24A, TB 213). Before introducing Res. 4-15 (TB 83) the floor committee on Administration added the words "and the Commission on World Hunger" after the name of the Rev. Martin C. Poch in line 65 (TB 83) and added the words "at the end of this fiscal year" at the end of the second resolved, line 68 (TB 83). After a brief discussion the delegates adopted Res. 4-15 (TB 83) and agreed to terminate the Commission on World Hunger and transfer its work to the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief.

Point of Privilege

Because it was necessary for one of the delegates to leave this session of the convention for the wedding of his son, he was granted the privilege of speaking to Res. 6-08A (TB 248), which was to be considered later in the session.

Theology and Church Relations

Since it was necessary for Dr. George Harkins, General Secretary of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., to leave, the floor committee on Theology and Church Relations was granted permission to introduce Res. 3-12 (TB 57) relating to the continuing evaluation of the Synod's membership and participation in LCUSA. After declining to change the word "selected" to "full" in line 27 (TB 57) and after agreeing to termination of debate on the issue, the convention adopted the resolution as presented (Res. 3-12, TB 57).

Higher Education

Dr. Ellis Nieting, chairman of the floor committee on Higher Education, reintroduced Res. 6-08A (TB 248) and in response to a question from the floor indicated that the convention was to vote on the first resolved and all others seriatim. Mr. Norman Sell, speaking for the Task Force on Higher Education, pointed to the differences between the recommendations of the task force and the recommendations of the floor committee on Higher Education. He stated that the delegates had only three choices: (1) to adopt the task force report; (2) to accept the recommendations of the floor committee on Higher Education; and (3) referral of the matter with action to be taken on the basis of principles outlined in Res. 6-07A (TB 247), which had been adopted previously. The convention declined to consider the resolves of the task force found in the *Convention Workbook*, pages 295—302, as a substitute motion. They also declined to terminate debate after 30 minutes had expired. In response to a question from the floor, the chairman of the floor committee stated that Resolved 1, a (TB 248) did not allow the establishment of a fifth 4-year teacher training institute at Ann Arbor without specific action by the Synod. Responding to a request from the floor, Dr. Arthur Ahlschwede, Executive Secretary of the Board for Higher Education, spoke briefly and suggested that the assembly might be willing to allow the Board for Higher Education, an elected board of the Synod, to implement any or all of the resolutions of 6-08A. A substitute motion calling for referral of the matter to the task force with the directive to make its proposals directly to the next synodical convention after firming up questions relating to the upper-level theological program, its costs, and educational results, was declined for consideration by a vote of 434—543. The delegates then agreed to close this session of the convention.

Orders of the Day

After agreeing to reconsider the orders of the day, the convention determined to begin its business sessions after the devotion at 8:00 a.m. the next day and to reach

a decision on Res. 6-08A (TB 248) when this matter once again came before the house.

Recognition

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, presented Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rauscher to the delegates. Mr. Rauscher, Controller of the Synod, has served the Synod since September 2, 1952, and has announced his intention to retire to the Board of Directors of the Synod. The convention joined Dr. Mueller in wishing God's blessings to Mr. and Mrs. Rauscher in their retirement.

Closing

The convention session closed with the devotion led by Dr. Arnold Kuntz, President of the Southern California District.

Session 14

July 11, Morning

Opening

After President Preus had declared this session open in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the delegates were led in a devotion by the Rev. Wilbert Griesse, President of the Mid-South District. In his remarks he stressed that Jesus Christ is not only Lord but Savior.

Point of Privilege

Speaking on a point of privilege, a delegate addressed the convention, asking that the members proceed with the business of the convention in an orderly and evangelical way.

Convention Format Review

Dr. Herman Scherer, speaking for the Convention Format Review Committee, introduced Res. 14-01 (TB 310), which called for a change in the Bylaws of the Synod relating to the preconvention procedure and calendar. After several attempts to correct the proposed wording in lines 60—64 of page 310 (Bylaw 1.27 f), the following wording was approved by common consent: "If the President deems it advisable, he may convene any committees prior to the opening of the convention." The words "following which meeting to be held at least 6 weeks before the opening of the convention" were deleted from the paragraph. By common consent the delegates also changed the time of 8 weeks to 7 weeks in line 3 of page 311 (Bylaw 1.27 g). The resolution was then adopted as amended (Res. 14-01, TB 310). After inserting the words "and further implemented" between the words "incorporated" and "into" (line 47, TB 311) by common consent, the delegates called for utilization of the new convention format at the 1977 and subsequent conventions of the Synod, with particular emphasis on the small-group format.

Progress Report

The chairman, Dr. Preus, reported that of the 268 resolutions presented for action, 155 still remained to be considered.

Convention Format Review

Dr. Scherer then introduced the final resolution from the Convention Format Committee, which asked that the Convention Format Review Committee meeting at the 1975 convention be included in an ad hoc committee reporting to the 1977 convention of the Synod on convention format and procedures. Resolution 14-03 (TB 312) was then adopted after inserting the word "evangelistic" in line 25 (TB 312) between the words "fellowship" and "and."

Standing Rules

Responding to a suggestion from Mr. Robert Hirsch, the convention adopted a resolution stating that "the standing rules of the present convention shall serve as the temporary rules for the 1977 convention."

Missions

Chairman Richard Schlecht, chairman of the floor committee on Missions, introduced Res. 2-09A (TB 238), which directed the Board for Missions in consultation with the black clergy caucus of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to appoint a task force of lay persons and clergy with competent staff personnel to explore models of ministry and mission outreach which would be more effective, efficient, and adaptable in and to the black community. They also directed that funds be made available by the Board of Directors for this study. Resolution 2-09A (TB 238) was adopted as a substitute for Res. 2-09 (TB 37). The convention called for synodical and District Church Extension Funds to coordinate their efforts (Res. 2-15, TB 40). After declining to add the words "with specific emphasis on inner-city ministries" after the word "Synod" in the resolved, the delegates adopted Res. 2-16 (TB 40), which encouraged the Church Extension Board to operate uniformly throughout the Districts of the Synod. The Church Extension Departments of the Synod and the Districts were urged to seek state licensing and/or certification for their Church Extension Departments (Res. 2-17, TB 40). The delegates then adopted Res. 2-18 (TB 41), urging the Church Extension Board to generate capital for its service-charge loan fund after being informed that this action would make it possible to offer small-interest loans to inner-city congregations and to ethnic groups. Resolution 2-19 (TB 41), asking for deferral of the request to use Church Extension funds to meet the budget of the Synod, was withdrawn after the convention was informed that the Commission on Constitutional Matters had ruled that the earnings of the Fund must revert back to it. As a result of this ruling, the resolution was declared out of order. After declining to change the word "a" to the words "the present" in line 3 of Res. 2-10A (TB 239), the delegates agreed with the floor committee in declining to recommend *Handbook* changes regarding Medical Missions. In response to a question from the floor, it was stated that the intention of the committee was that this in no way meant that the present workable program could not be continued. This intention was to be recorded in the minutes.

Higher Education

Dr. Ellis Nieting, chairman of the floor committee on Higher Education, reintroduced Res. 6-08A (TB 248) to the convention. Since there was some confusion in the manner in which this resolution was to be handled, the delegates declined a resolution asking that Res. 6-08A (TB 248) be discussed and voted on in toto. Consequently the chair declared that the resolution would be discussed and voted on seriatim.

Point of Privilege

Dr. Herbert Bredemeier, president of Concordia Senior College, asked that figures relating to the enrollment and dormitory occupancy at the college be represented accurately. He stated that there had been misrepresentation of these figures during the discussions which had occurred.

Registration and Credentials

The Rev. John Zimmermann, chairman of the floor committee on Registration and Credentials, reported the final registration figures (corrected after audit). The tally showed a total of 1,903 registered in the following categories:

Voting Pastors	559	Convention Staff	
Voting Laypersons	559	Committee	14
Advisory Pastors	68	Today's Business	7
Advisory Teachers	119	Public Relations	29
Official Representatives	314	Press	171
Special Invited Guests	9	Ad Hoc Campus Reps.	8
Official Youth	43	Official Observers	3

Point of Privilege

Mr. John Schuelke, Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors of the Synod, stated that since Mr. Ed Streufert has indicated his intention to retire, the Synod is in need of an auditor. He asked that the names of qualified and eligible candidates be sent to him.

Greetings

Dr. David Preus, President of The American Lutheran Church; Dr. S. T. Jacobson, President of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada; and Dr. Robert Marshall, President of the Lutheran Church in America, addressed the convention.

In his remarks, Dr. David Preus indicated that The American Lutheran Church has agonized with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in recent years as it faces its problems. He stated that there is work which needs to be done and it requires the efforts of all of us. He said that we must work together in evangelical outreach, in the struggle for justice, in the building of community, in Lutheran cooperation, and in other areas. He stated that The American Lutheran Church would be involved in these activities, and it hoped that all Lutherans would be there with them.

Dr. Jacobson brought greetings from The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and spoke of the work which is being done in that country as they seek to bring about fellowship with all Lutheran groups. He described the work as being difficult but that all involved are working

patiently, prayerfully, and persistently towards the goal of fellowship.

Dr. Robert Marshall brought the greetings of the Lutheran Church in America to the convention in the words of Paul from his Epistle to the Galatians. He posed a number of alternatives which appear to many to be characteristic of the Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In his opinion all of these alternatives were wrong. He closed his remarks with additional words from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

Dr. Preus, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, responded to these greetings with thanks and expressed a welcome to Dr. Oscar Naumann, President of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the Rev. George Orvick, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Higher Education

After adding the letter "A" after "6-07" in line 42 (TB 248) the convention resumed discussion of Res. 6-08A (TB 248). They declined to add the words "and Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin" in paragraph 1, a and 1, c (TB 248). A motion "that we refer Res. 6-08A to the Board for Higher Education for further study" was also declined, 456—518. Responding to a point of information, Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, stated that the *Handbook* does not permit the Board for Higher Education to sell campuses, to close schools, and to take other similar actions without the direction of the convention or the approval of various other boards. After the assembly had voted to terminate debate, a privileged motion asking for deferral of voting on Resolved 1, a, b, c, d, of Res. 6-08A (TB 248) until after debate on the second resolved was declined. The delegates then adopted the first resolved (lines 45—46) of Res. 6-08A (TB 248) by a vote of 548—426. This resolved directed the Board for Higher Education to phase out Concordia Senior College at Fort Wayne as a separate educational institution. Following this decision the delegates adopted subparagraphs a, b, c, and d of the first resolved. By this action the preseminary program at Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, is to be relocated under the direction of the Board for Higher Education at Concordia Lutheran College, Ann Arbor, Michigan, giving this college 4-year status. This phasing-out and relocation is to be completed before September 1, 1976, and the present faculty and staff at Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, is to be given every possible consideration for placement as the preseminary program is relocated and staffed and as other positions are filled in the Synod. The Board of Directors is also authorized and directed to make the necessary provision for funds to expedite the transfer.

Discussion was then begun on Resolved 2, which asked for the relocation of Concordia Theological Seminary of Springfield, Illinois, to the site of the present Senior College.

During the discussion President Arthur Kuehnert of the Central Illinois District read a statement to the convention opposing the move of Concordia Theological



Directors and District Presidents giving close attention to the debate

Seminary from Springfield, stating his reasons for opposition.

Closing

Following the orders of the day, which called for adjournment, the session was closed with a prayer led by Dr. Edwin Weber, First Vice-President of the Synod.

Session 15

July 11, Afternoon

Opening

The final session of the convention opened with the singing of a hymn and with prayer led by Dr. Preus. The Rev. Oscar Gerken asked for the privilege of leading the delegates in prayer for Pastor Dubberke, who was not as seriously ill as previously reported. He was asked to include also the family of Mrs. Herbert Krieger, who had died during the time of the convention sessions.

Minutes

The minutes of Sessions 9, 10, and 11 were approved after they had been amended by adding the words "and Affirm" in line 14 (TB 314). A rising vote of appreciation was given to the young people present.

Point of Privilege

Dr. August Bernthal, Fifth Vice-President of the Synod, was granted the privilege of making a statement to the convention. He indicated that while he had not

spoken earlier in the convention at the time when a resolution relating to District Presidents had been discussed and adopted, if he would have spoken they would have been words in which he indicated his loyalty to the Synod and asked for evangelical action in relation to the men involved.

Higher Education

The convention began discussion of Res. 6-08A (TB 248) at the point at which the discussion had terminated in the previous session. Dr. Elwood Zimmermann, President of the Indiana District, was granted the privilege of speaking to the convention. He indicated that he had not spoken previously since any action taken with regard to the phasing out of Concordia Senior College or the movement of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, to the site of the Senior College would have involved him as President of the District. Since the first resolved had been adopted, he now spoke strongly in favor of the movement of the seminary to the site in Indiana. After declining an amendment which asked that the Board for Higher Education be directed to transfer Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, to the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the delegates adopted the second resolved of Res. 6-08A (TB 248), which directed the Board for Higher Education to transfer Concordia Theological Seminary of Springfield, Illinois, to the campus of Fort Wayne, Indiana, by June 1, 1977. They then approved the third resolved, which relieved the Board of Control of the Senior College of its duties and responsibilities after the transfer of the

property of the Synod at Concordia Theological Seminary had been effected.

The convention declined a substitute motion for the fourth resolved which asked "that we offer for sale, or, out of love and concern demonstrated at Anaheim and to build a 'golden bridge,' that we donate the campus and library of the Springfield seminary to Seminex." The delegates accepted an amendment asking that the Central Illinois District be given an opportunity through a committee of its choosing under the auspices of the Board for Higher Education to consider the possibility of purchasing this property for some educational purpose and that this be given precedence over commercial offers to purchase the property. The fourth resolved was then adopted as amended (TB 248—249).

The convention agreed to the continuation of both the Academy and the Junior College Departments of St. Paul's College at Concordia, Missouri, by the adoption of the fifth resolved (TB 249). A motion that we dispense with the procedure of voting on the sections of Res. 6-08A (TB 248) seriatim was ruled out of order by the chair since the speaker did not have the floor to present a motion. The delegates did, however, adopt a motion to consider the sixth and seventh resolves as a single unit. After adding the words "(except for that property being used by Concordia High School in Oakland)" after the word "property" in line 20 (TB 249), the sixth and seventh resolves were adopted. These portions of Res. 6-08A (TB 248) asked that all synodical schools be maintained in accordance with the proposed guidelines which had been adopted by the assembly and that the Synod continue the development of Christ College Irvine according to previous convention resolutions. A motion to add at the end of the sixth resolved the words "and specifically that the convention in assembly direct the Board of Control of Ann Arbor to conduct new in-depth studies with the University of Michigan with a view to opening the thousands of courses at this prestigious institution to interested students who will come to Ann Arbor for study" was declined by the convention during the discussion which preceded adoption of the sixth and seventh resolves.

Prior to adopting the eighth and ninth resolves, the words "and to develop policy statements, in consultation with Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, for the training of LCMS pastors at Saskatoon and that . . ." were added by common consent to line 24 (TB 249) between the word "LCMS" and "to." A resolution changing line 28 (TB 249) to read "an extension program in Ontario at a site to be approved by the Ontario District in convention; and be it further" was adopted by the delegates. The eighth and ninth resolves were then adopted (TB 249) as amended.

The convention also adopted the tenth resolved, which directed the Board for Higher Education to formulate a policy of subsidy for our colleges and seminaries that gives priority in the allocation of synodical funds to the support of programs preparing students for full-time work in the church. The assembly then adopted the eleventh resolved, which directed the Board for Higher Education to give special study to the task force report

and present its recommendations based on that report to the Synod in convention in 1977 after they had amended the resolution to add the words after 1977 "and that the Board for Higher Education direct that Christ College Irvine and all other synodical colleges be urgently encouraged to absorb the members of the faculty of Concordia Senior College by spring 1976." (TB 249)

After the twelfth resolved had been approved, the entire resolution, Res. 6-08A (TB 248—249), was declared adopted as amended.

Point of Privilege

Speaking on a point of privilege, a member of the convention declared his appreciation for the fair and evangelical conduct of the convention by President Preus. He stated that in his opinion it had been conducted in such a manner that all points of view were granted a hearing. The delegates expressed their agreement with this opinion with a rising ovation.

Higher Education

After substituting the words "number-one" for the word "highest" in the last resolved (TB 137), the delegates adopted Res. 6-09 (TB 137), which commended Dr. Willis Wright and the entire Selma College community for their excellent performance during the past biennium and encouraged them to continue their efforts for full accreditation. By adopting this resolution they also asked that the adequate library facility which was proposed for Alabama Lutheran Academy and College constitute the number-one priority in new construction within the synodical system of colleges and seminaries.

Following the introduction of Res. 6-10A (TB 273) a motion was made to adopt Res. 6-10 (TB 138) as a substitute motion. The convention agreed to its consideration. In the discussion which followed, the words "and that other necessary locations under the supervision of the Board for Higher Education" were added at the end of the resolution (TB 138). The resolution was then adopted as amended (Res. 6-10, TB 138). By adopting this resolution the convention asked the Board for Higher Education to further implement the project of Hispanic missions and asked that the training program for this ministry be centered on the campus of Concordia College at Austin and in other necessary locations. The convention also agreed to adopt the *Handbook* regulations for lay ministry which were proposed by the floor committee on Higher Education (Res. 6-11A, TB 273).

Adjournment

Although the tentative time for adjournment had arrived, a member of the assembly raised a question regarding Res. 4-03B (TB 308), indicating that this resolution relating to the combating of racism had not been adopted, that it had been referred back to the committee for editing, and that the proposed changes did not adequately reflect the thrust of the original resolution or of Res. 4-03A (TB 199). During the brief discussion there was a call for the orders of the day. A motion was made and seconded to extend the time of the session to 5:00

p.m. The delegates, however, adopted a motion to adjourn the entire convention.

Closing

After President Preus had installed newly elected officers of the Synod, he spoke to the delegates briefly, basing his devotional remarks on a section of 1 Corin-

ans. He stated his desire that no one should go home saying that they had won or lost. The delegates had been asked to deal with many difficult things and would be asked to answer many questions after they return to their homes. He asked them to remember that Jesus is Lord.

WALTER ROSIN, *Assistant Secretary*

Election Results

The following are the results of balloting for boards and commissions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those individuals who have been elected are indicated by means of an asterisk (*) to the left of the candidate's name:

Board of Directors

PASTORS	Vote
Ballots cast, 1,079	
Berner, Herbert W. (SW) _____	126
Frey, John D. (Ks) _____	222
*Lemke, Ervin R. (SW) _____	567
Schlecht, Willard E. (So) _____	165

LAYPERSONS	Vote
Ballots cast, 1,087	
Cromling, William E. (OH) _____	250
Dunklau, Rupert (Neb) _____	293
*Melde, Gus S. (Tx) _____	674
*Mohr, George H. (SW) _____	550
Montz, Florence (ND) _____	329
*Muhlenbruch, Carl W. (NI) _____	582
Petzold, Rudy H. (Mc) _____	158
Rehbein, Edith S. (NJ) _____	353
Schmidt, Franklin W. (Mc) _____	128
Schultz, Lester W. (NW) _____	191
*Scott, Edward S. (Co) _____	635

Commission of Adjudication

PASTORS	Vote
Ballots cast, 1,084	
*Elowsky, Earl W. (IE) _____	573
Hartner, Harlan (Ks) _____	311
Hoyer, Victor O. (IW) _____	283
*Humann, Roger J. (On) _____	578
Meyer, Robert L. (SW) _____	288

LAYPERSONS	Vote
Ballots cast, 1,063	
Ahrens, Allen C. (Neb) _____	197
*Doggett, Robert I. (Oh) _____	567
Wendorff, R. J. (NW) _____	299

Board of Appeals

PASTORS	Vote
Ballots cast, 1,063	
*Freiburger, Paul M. (Mt) _____	592
*Martens, Elden H. (MnN) _____	615
Poellot, Daniel E. (NI) _____	419
Schnedler, E. W. (Oh) _____	413

LAYPERSONS	Vote
Ballots cast, 1,075	
Alrutz, Robert W. (Oh) _____	192
Haessler, George W. (Neb) _____	177
*Koehler, Herman E. (NW) _____	557
Kramer, Robert C. (En) _____	251
*Theis, Elmer H. (Tx) _____	611
Vogt, Kenneth J. (Oh) _____	129
Wilson, W. A. (Co) _____	188

Board for Church Extension

PASTORS	Vote
Ballots cast, 1,050	
Mueller, Herman W. (SC) _____	436
*Schuth, Louis W. (NI) _____	614

LAYPERSONS

Vote
Ballots cast, 1,052
Bohlen, Earl D. (SD) _____
*Claussen, Donavon D. (MnS) _____
Gerrard, Kenneth M. (FG) _____
*Hast, Herbert H. (Co) _____

TEACHERS

Vote
Ballots cast, 1,032
*Graebner, W. M. (Mc) _____
Schlimpert, Edgar T. (Mo) _____

CPH Board of Directors (6-year term)

PASTORS

Vote
Ballots cast, 1,069
*Brown, J. Barclay (Wy) _____
Hughes, William J. (En) _____

LAYPERSONS

Vote
Ballots cast, 1,054
Bock, Richard O. (MnS) _____
*Hanson, James (Oh) _____
*Koch, Milton P. (SE) _____
Sauer, Enno T. (In) _____

Committee for Convention Nominations (2-year term)

PASTORS

Vote
Ballots cast, 993
*Barth, Paul G. (En) _____
Belasic, David (NW) _____
Brink, Kurt W. (Co) _____
*Fry, Henry (MnS) _____
Holtzen, Paul R. (NEB) _____
*Klug, Eugene F. (CI) _____
*Lavalais, Joseph G. (Ea) _____
Marcis, Albert M. (SELC) _____
*Mather, Elwood E. (At) _____
*Mennicke, August T. (MnN) _____
Obeda, John S. (On) _____
Pullmann, Albert G. (Mt) _____
Raedeke, Norman (IW) _____
Wiechmann, Helmut H. (SE) _____
*Zimmermann, John C. (IE) _____

LAYPERSONS

Vote
Ballots cast, 1,079
*Culley, Roy J. (Now) _____
Helm, Judith (SE) _____
Kahler, John S. (EA) _____
Lammerts, Walter E. (CN) _____
*Meyer, Marie (At) _____
Mueller, Louise M. (Mo) _____
Paetz, Robert (On) _____
Roedel, Beverly M. (OK) _____
*Samuel, Arthur F. (Tx) _____
*Shields, Ivan J. (SC) _____
*Ziegler, Edgar F. (MnS) _____

TEACHERS

Vote
Ballots cast, 1,001
*Beckmann, Robert T. (NE) _____

	Vote
Homann, T. Richard (Now) _____	344
*Laesch, Roger C. (SW) _____	628
Peter, Victor K. (Neb) _____	335
Pohlman, Lawrence H. (NI) _____	332
*Rusch, W. H. (Mc) _____	606

Board for Evangelism

PASTORS

Ballots cast, 1,066	
*Bertram, O. H. (En) _____	621
Parsch, Timothy S. (FG) _____	232
Ulbrich, Armand H. (Mc) _____	213

LAYPERSONS

Ballots cast, 1,051	
*Kaufmann, Walter A. (Mc) _____	616
Kraft, Clifford A. (EA) _____	435

Board for Missions

PASTORS

Ballots cast, 1,085				
*Gruell, Eugene F. (FG) _____	340	252	373	557
*Hintze, Otto C. (CI) _____	595			
Lavalais, Joseph G. (EA) _____	229	182	188	
Meyer, Richard H. (SO) _____	289	154		
Snyder, Walter W. (CO) _____	151			
Werning, Waldo J. (SW) _____	532	440	448	499

LAYPERSONS

Ballots cast, 1,068	
*Balke, Ernest W. (TX) _____	643
*Dennis, Benjamin (MC) _____	650
Ingemann, Frances (EN) _____	387
*Marten, Ralph (IW) _____	604
Marth, William D. (MnS) _____	334
Nelson, Gordon E. (SE) _____	426

TEACHERS (2 years)

Ballots cast, 1,040	
*Bluma, George W. (NEB) _____	527
Radke, Merle L. (NI) _____	263
Schmidt, Edward E. (MO) _____	250

TEACHERS (4 years)

Ballots cast, 1,066	
Kluge, David A. (SE) _____	297
Lucht, Wayne (NI) _____	221
*Wingfield, Albert B. (MC) _____	548

Board for Higher Education

PASTORS

Ballots cast, 986	
Boedecker, Robert C. (SW) _____	173
*Gehlar, Philip C. (SC) _____	519
Homrighausen, Edgar (So) _____	294

LAYPERSONS

Ballots cast, 982	
*Brunn, Walter F. (En) _____	536
Christopher, Walter A. (NI) _____	244
Schoer, Lowell A. (IE) _____	202

TEACHERS

Ballots cast, 967	
*Halm, Dennis Ray (SW) _____	560
Keuer, Edward J. (Tx) _____	407

Board of Parish Education

PASTORS

Ballots cast, 1,053	
*Degner, G. Waldemar (EA) _____	648
Heidemann, Leonard W. (NEB) _____	405

LAYPERSONS

Ballots cast, 1,056	
Warren, Carol J. (AB) _____	245
Wiltse, Wayne W. (MC) _____	152
*Wright, Willis L. (SO) _____	659

TEACHERS

Ballots cast, 1,035	
Bleke, Walter F. (MC) _____	370
Dobberfuhr, Walter F. (SW) _____	426
*Kraft, Arthur (SW) _____	590
*Zilz, Melvin L. (IN) _____	570

Board of Stewardship

PASTORS

Ballots cast, 1,071	
*Bleick, Roy (SW) _____	583
Hiller, Carl (CN) _____	312
Mendelman, G. Holmes (SE) _____	294
Schroeder, Henry C. (At) _____	301
*Simcak, Andrew Jr. (Tx) _____	592

LAYPERSONS

Ballots cast, 1,032	
*Bosma, Charles E. (In) _____	675
Senkbeil, Robert C. (SW) _____	357

Board of Youth Ministry

PASTORS

Ballots cast, 1,070	
*Baumgarn, Jack R. (IW) _____	608
Fickenschier, Robert F. (CN) _____	462

LAYPERSONS

Ballots cast, 1,063	
Kuehn, Stephen P. (SE) _____	294
*Peeks, Gordon J. (Neb) _____	571
Schuh, Sharon (MnS) _____	198

YOUTH (2 year term)

Ballots cast, 1,060	
Bahr, Pam (IE) _____	342
Bean, Joe Patrick (Mo) _____	223
*Friedrich, Brian L. (IW) _____	593
Hohenstein, Jon D. (MnS) _____	260
Johnson, Kathleen (Mo) _____	270
*Krueger, Rickie J. (Co) _____	637
Landmann, Suzanne F. (Cn) _____	298
Lemley, Alan O. (FG) _____	205
Madigan, Diane (Mc) _____	221
Meyer, Michael K. (Mds) _____	233
*Rogness, Ruth N. (In) _____	597
*Schurb, Ken (So) _____	584
*Scott, Connie S. (Tx) _____	657

Commission on Mission & Ministry

(Later in the convention this commission was voted out of existence)

PASTORS

Ballots cast, 1,095	
*Caspersen, David A. (NEB) _____	595
Graudin, John E. (SE) _____	350
*Heins, John L. (MC) _____	585
Janke, Roger A. (EN) _____	360
Metcalf, Max P. (IE) _____	193

LAYPERSONS

Ballots cast, 1,047	
Brauer, Carl A. Jr. (MC) _____	407
*Mildebrandt, Thomas H. (SC) _____	650
*Peavey, W. J. (MDS) _____	573
Russler, D. W. (NW) _____	421

TEACHERS

Ballots cast, 1,017	
Meyer, Gerald A. (MC) _____	393
*Von Fange, Erich A. (MC) _____	624

Commission on Theology & Church Relations

PASTORS

Ballots cast, 1,081	
Busch, Edward E. (SC) _____	217
Erickson, Dale A. (NW) _____	219

	Vote		Vote
Korcok, John (On) _____	109	Donovan, Frederick M. (MO) _____	334
Lieske, Bruce J. (En) _____	298	*Schaefer, P. James (MO) _____	636
Lischer, Richard A. (SE) _____	126		
*Mueller, Norbert H. (Mc) _____	584	TEACHERS	
*Westcott, Edward A. Jr. (SC) _____	580	Ballots cast, 1,024	
LAYPERSONS		*Golz, Lester P. (MO) _____	657
Ballots cast, 1,037		Meyermann, Armin W. (MO) _____	367
Nehrenz, Clyde T. (Oh) _____	350	Board of Control — Edmonton	
*Ridgeway, Don (SE) _____	687	PASTORS	
Board of Control — Ann Arbor		Ballots cast, 1,038	
PASTORS		*Raaflaub, Vernon A. (MS) _____	563
Ballots cast, 1,068		Ritter, Walter A. (AB) _____	475
Marcis, T. Richard (OH) _____	83	LAYPERSONS	
Nickel, David M. (MC) _____	138	Ballots cast, 1,038	
Nissen, Eugene W. (EN) _____	287	Beamer, Bruce E. (AB) _____	333
*Streit, John C. (EN) _____	552	*Gable, Jay (AB) _____	610
LAYPERSONS		Schmidt, Sylvia R. (AB) _____	426
Ballots cast, 1,032		*Schroeder, Luther E. (AB) _____	629
Braun, Vincent C. (OH) _____	424	TEACHERS	
*Laetz, Ernest C. (MC) _____	590	Ballots cast, 1,021	
Rickus, Richard H. (MC) _____	362	*Lobitz, Mark C. (AB) _____	630
*Schoenherr, Robert O. (MC) _____	618	Sandau, William H. (AB) _____	391
TEACHER		Board of Control — Fort Wayne	
Ballots cast, 1,017		PASTORS	
Eckert, Glenn W. (MC) _____	409	Ballots cast, 1,039	
*Schwartz, Justin C. (MC) _____	608	*Fedder, Allen H. (NI) _____	649
Board of Control — Austin		Hoppes, James T. (IN) _____	365
PASTORS		*Skibbe, Cecil H. (IN) _____	633
Ballots cast, 1,044		Stohlmann, Paul F. Jr. (IN) _____	392
*Blumhorst, James K. (TX) _____	563	LAYPERSONS	
Freed, John H. (TX) _____	296	Ballots cast, 1,050	
Roschke, Norbert F. (TX) _____	185	*Fenner, Walter D. (IN) _____	641
LAYPERSONS		Heldt, Carl A. (IN) _____	457
Ballots cast, 1,053		*Trier, Lester A. (IN) _____	605
*Bauer, Robert (TX) _____	593	Worthington, Robert L. (IN) _____	351
Bethke, Monroe (TX) _____	271	Board of Control — Milwaukee	
Richardson, Rozelia (OK) _____	288	PASTORS	
*Schroeder, Leonard F. (TX) _____	564	Ballots cast, 1,033	
Strieter, Frederick J. (TX) _____	292	Schaefer, Armin C. (SW) _____	429
TEACHERS		*Sedory, Elmer J. (NI) _____	604
Ballots cast, 1,030		LAYPERSONS (2 years)	
*Fischer, Clayton A. (SO) _____	581	Ballots cast, 1,025	
Kienschnick, Harold C. (TX) _____	449	Bollinger, James O. (NW) _____	244
Board of Control — Bronxville		*Bordeleau, Leo A. (NW) _____	539
PASTORS		Seefeld, Elmer A. (SW) _____	242
Ballots cast, 1,066		LAYPERSONS (4 years)	
Kromphardt, Arnold E. (Ea) _____	332	Ballots cast, 1,043	
*Mather, Elwood E. (At) _____	573	*Korth, Dale W. (SW) _____	635
Schoenfuhs, Walter P. (SE) _____	161	*Metzger, George (SW) _____	641
LAYPERSONS		Milbrath, Harold A. (SW) _____	380
Ballots cast, 1,072		Schrader, Marvin A. (SW) _____	313
*Appel, Henry G. (NJ) _____	565	TEACHERS	
Guenther, Bernard W. (At) _____	272	Ballots cast, 1,021	
Hoffmann, Theodore D. (At) _____	378	Jording, David C. (SW) _____	319
Mueller, Frank W. (SE) _____	260	*Maas, Richard E. (SW) _____	702
*Weber, Arnold K. (En) _____	595	Board of Control — Oakland	
TEACHERS		LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 1,060		Ballots cast, 1,035	
Arkebauer, Herbert J. (At) _____	284	Haynes, Raymond E. (CO) _____	374
*Beckmann, Robert T. (NE) _____	546	Range, Donald L. (SC) _____	381
Kretzmann, F. Carl (En) _____	230	*Weise, Eileen L. (CN) _____	643
Board of Control — Concordia, Mo.		*Zipp, F. William (CN) _____	616
LAYPERSONS		TEACHERS	
Ballots cast, 1,034		Ballots cast, 1,035	
*Brauer, William H. (MO) _____	641	*Klein, Doris (CN) _____	600
Dautenhahn, David I. (MO) _____	379	Marty, Robert E. (CN) _____	435

LAYPERSON (4 yr.)	Vote
Ballots cast, 787	
Goertl, Arno E. (Brazil)	350
*Schelp, H. (Brazil)	437
Board of Control — Sao Leopoldo, Brazil	
LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 985	
*Liechti, Herbert (Brazil)	592
Zimmer, Remi Jorge (Brazil)	393

Special Standing Rules

(These rules were adopted in the first session. Later the convention resolved that these rules shall also serve as the temporary rules of the next convention.)

1. The President shall present in *Today's Business* the agenda of business to come before the convention in the sessions of that day, and the approximate time slots. The chair shall see that this agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Resolutions of each floor committee shall be prioritized by number and shall normally be presented in the numerical sequence published in *Today's Business*.
3. Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall state his name. He shall also state the name of his District or of the administrative unit (board, faculty) he represents.
4. The 2-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor.
5. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after every 30 minutes of debate on any one motion there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair.
6. Instead of a voice vote on motions before the convention, the chair shall ordinarily call for the raising of the right hand. (During the discussion of this rule it was agreed that *both* methods would be employed).
7. If a substitute motion is offered, the convention shall first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion falls; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
8. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.
9. In the sessions of the last 2 days the President shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions which in his judgment must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.
10. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next convention by means of an overture.
11. Minutes shall be distributed every morning in *Today's Business*. The first item of business in the afternoon session shall be the formal approval of these minutes. However, at that time only corrections involving convention action shall be offered from the floor for consideration. Simple editorial corrections involving, for example, misspelling of names and faulty titles and references shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary for incorporation in the minutes after verification. (This standing rule was introduced during the Milwaukee convention and was adopted also for the New Orleans convention.)
12. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by *Roberts Rules of Order*, newly revised (1970 edition).

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

TEXT: *Philippians 2:5-11 (KJV)*

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God

But made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men,

And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name,

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth,

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

St. Paul's epistle to the Philippians, a document that emphasizes the joy we rightly possess as God's people, is both optimistic and realistic in tone. It is often called Paul's love letter. While there is much to be joyful about, such as partnership in the Gospel (1:5), the fact that Christ is preached, whatever the motives (1:17-18), being united with Christ, comforted by His love, and having fellowship with the Spirit (2:1), yet an important ingredient is lacking. "Make my joy complete," he urges, "by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (2:2). And after putting thumbs down on selfish ambition and vain conceit (2:3), the apostle points to the example of Christ Jesus. Your attitude, your mindset, should be as His.

Look, he implores you, Christ Jesus, "being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made Himself of no reputation" (2:6-7). In other words, in humbling Himself, according to His human nature, He refrained from the full use of His divine majesty. He took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. That was humility, a kind of humility the world had never seen. But more: He humbled Himself in obedience to God's will even unto death, and not a usual kind of death but death on the cross. (2:7-8)

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (2:5-11)

As we come together for this, the 51st synodical convention, let us consider these words as they apply to our situation today.

I. Concord Among Ourselves

"One in spirit and purpose" is what the apostle urges. "One," says Paul, and he says it in many places:

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 15:5)

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Cor. 1:10)

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as



President J.A.O. Preus

you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:3-6)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since, as members of one body, you were called to peace. (Col. 3:15)

Let us first of all thank God for the measure of unity that exists among us. By the working of His Holy Spirit we are all members of the church in that we believe in Jesus Christ to be our Savior and the only way to eternal life. It is because we confess together the central truth of Scripture that many of us are impatient concerning the overwhelming task of bringing this only saving message to all men. Many feel that far too much time, energy, and money has been expended in attempting to solve our doctrinal problems and that our evangelism and mission efforts are suffering as a result.

Still we must be mindful that any compromise of any clear teaching in the Scripture has inevitably led to the loss of the Gospel itself. We must remain as uncompromising as Martin Luther, who wrote:

We want to retain all articles of the Christian faith absolutely pure and sure and not give up one tittle of them, no matter whether they are great or small (though none is small or unimportant to us). And so it must be, for the doctrine is our only light which shines upon our way and guides us to heaven. If we allow it to be made weak and

feeble in one place, it will surely become altogether powerless; if we fail at this point, love will not help us.... We can be saved without the love and unity of the Sacramentarians; but we cannot be saved without the pure doctrine and faith. (C. F. W. Walther, *The True Visible Church*, trans. John Theodore Mueller, p. 93)

Related to doctrinal differences is the issue of procedural differences. The Scriptures are the sure and infallible Word of God; therefore the directives contained therein are not to be questioned, much less ignored. The congregation is also of God, with all its responsibilities and rights, as it seeks to carry out the ministry "that brings righteousness" (2 Cor. 3:9) by means of preaching, teaching, witnessing, and caring. The Synod, however, is man-made and therefore advisory, possessing no more authority than that which has been delegated and entrusted to it by the member congregations.

If we keep these distinctions in mind, we will not be engulfed in the questions of authority and rights. We will also, in a peaceful and therefore in a Christ-like manner, review our programs and procedures, making such changes as are not contrary to God's Word but are necessary in carrying out the common tasks we wish to accomplish as a synod. In making such decisions we will look not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others. (Phil. 2:4)

"One in spirit and purpose" (2:2). What is our common purpose? Would we not all answer with one voice: "The salvation of souls"? Is it not our "heart's desire and prayer to God . . . that they may be saved"? (Rom. 10:1). Do we not all agree, that to accomplish this task, men and women must be mobilized, given the best possible Christian education, and sent? "How can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Rom. 10:14-15)

"One in spirit and purpose." We cannot work together in carrying out these tasks unless there is a spirit of cooperation and understanding among us. Flaming words rising from the fuel of questioned motives, name-calling, judgments not based on fact, jealousies, and personal frustrations do not "build others up according to their needs" (Eph. 4:29) but only destroy. "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouths come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." (James 4:9-10)

"One in spirit and purpose." We have a great deal to do at this convention. The presence of twice as many overtures from congregations alone should indicate to us that we must proceed with all due possible haste. Much will be left undone if we spend too much time in our decision-making. The fact that all delegates received proposed resolutions several weeks ago should greatly expedite our discussions and decisions.

Many of us have come great distances and at personal sacrifice to get the work done. Let us not impede the progress of the convention by employing tactics which frustrate this decision-making. What I am saying is not intended to muzzle honest expression of concern. I do hope, however, that we will be about our business in a way that is God-pleasing and therefore fair to all.

II. Allegiance to Christ

If our goals are alike and if our attitude is that of Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself and has therefore been given great glory, we shall put first things first, humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God and confessing on bended knee our unworthiness to be even named "Christian" after Him whose name is above every name. (2:5, 9-10)

The bended knee implies the broken and contrite heart. Each of us in his own way has violated the holy law of God in thought, word, and deed. With Luther we confess that "we daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment." We confess such sins as sloth, for we often are remiss in our Christian witnessing. We confess such sins as greed, for our offerings to God are often minimal. We confess such sins as pride, for even as we bend the knee, there is the desire to be noticed. We confess such sins as envy, for we often feel that others with less talent and through less labor than our own have been overrewarded. We confess such sins as anger, not "righteous" anger but the kind of anger which does not work the righteousness of God. (James 1:20)

The bended knee implies humility and repentance. Christ is Lord. To Him all authority in heaven and earth has been given. His is the power to forgive, which He has and does, therefore we bend the knee "to Him who loved us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power forever and ever" (Rev. 1:5-6). He was dead but is alive forever and ever. He holds the keys of death and hell. (Rev. 1:18)

The bended knee implies obedience. "Teach them to observe all things I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20). We are not in a position to pick and choose from what He ordered to be done in and by His church. The whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), revealed to us in the Sacred Scriptures, is to be believed, taught, confessed, and followed. As those who live in the Law, we delight in His commandments, and they are not burdensome to us. So Luther begins each explanation of the Ten Commandments with the encouragement: "We should fear and love God. . . ."

The bended knee implies that we who live in the Gospel have the willingness to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The apostle specifically states that this is to be done orally. The Christian life, while reflecting the character of the believer, and deeds of charity, which we are always encouraged to render, is not sufficient. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

While the evangelism emphasis will be present in our assembly every day, we will especially have opportunity to learn by doing at the workshops scheduled for tomorrow.

Let us give this matter priority. Never in the history of the world has the church had a greater challenge and better equipment for bringing the Good News to sinful man. Never have the members of our Synod been as well educated and able to communicate with so many individuals in a lifetime. While there are problems connected with being better educated, with living in many places in new situations, with changing professions and pursuits,

with more leisure time, all of these realities furnish heretofore unknown and unpossessed opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus with so many.

May our gracious Father alert us to our own needs and the needs of others as we begin this convention. May the confession, "Jesus Christ is Lord," come from the

heart as well as from the tongue. May the Holy Spirit guide and direct us in every way to God-pleasing solutions to past and present problems, and may He open doors for us to future challenges (Acts 14:27). Amen.

J. A. O. PREUS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DEAR CO-WORKERS IN CHRIST:

Jesus Christ is Lord. Have you ever really stopped to think what this means? In our confirmation classes we learned to say, sometimes rather glibly, that "Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord." But what does this really mean? It means that He totally owns us, possesses us, and lives within us. In our day we hear a great deal about demons and demon possession. We also hear of people who believe that they have received special gifts of the Holy Spirit and are possessed by Him. But when we say that Jesus Christ is Lord, we are saying that the Greatest of all, to whom all power in heaven and earth has been given, possesses us. We are saying that He, "at whose name every knee shall bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth," is our personal Lord.

Paul, in speaking of his relationship with Christ, sees himself as a bond-servant, a slave. He says that for him "to live is Christ." In fact, it is no longer he who "lives but Christ, who lives in him." He can speak of his sins and cry out in his anguish, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me?" But on the other hand he can say, "I thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ." To say that Jesus Christ is Lord is to say that He is able to redeem us, to deliver us, that His death and His resurrection are all-sufficient for us and that therefore we are His servants, His slaves, His possession, His own peculiar people, who belong to Him as His possession because He has redeemed them. This is the all-encompassing faith which enfolds us from the hour of our baptism through all of life, through death itself, and into all eternity. Paul has another way of saying it. He says that "we put on Christ," that we are "in Christ." All of this and much more is involved when we say that Jesus Christ is Lord.

And in that spirit let us begin this convention. We, as the redeemed children of God, washed in the blood of Jesus Christ and made heirs of eternal life by Him, are gathered together as part of the church of which He is the Head, in order to deliberate about the work that has been done by His grace and Spirit through our church and to plan how we in the years that lie ahead may serve Him ever more faithfully, confess Him ever more sincerely, live for Him and bring His name to all the world in order that "at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

It may sound odd that words like this can be spoken at a church convention which opens with so many doubts and fears, so many tensions and frustrations, so much anger and hostility in the hearts of so many people. And yet it is because He is Lord that we can always approach Him, knowing that He loves us, that He has redeemed us, that He forgives, that He gives us peace, that He pours out His Spirit upon us, that He gives us His very body and blood in the Lord's Supper, that He adopts us as His own in baptism, and therefore we are worth something. We may take issue with each other, we may call

down the ridicule of the world upon one another, but Christ Jesus is our Lord and has made us His own, and therefore we are precious in His sight and thus should be precious in the sight of one another. Thus we begin, live, and die under His Lordship.

As your President, after giving all glory and thanks to our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, I first want to thank all the members of the Synod for all they have done during the past biennium to help in furthering the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our lay people, pastors, and teachers have continued to respond to the call of the Gospel with their gifts, their prayers, their sons and daughters, their lives of dedicated service to our heavenly Father, and their faithful witness to the Gospel.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Vice-Presidents of the Synod for their dedicated service. Doctor E. C. Weber has been my devoted right arm, and I want to thank him publicly and warmly. All of the Vice-Presidents have been very helpful, have carried out their assignments faithfully, and represented the Synod in many different ways. They are all worthy of our thanks. Doctor Bernthal has been particularly helpful in recent months in the important work that our Synod, through the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., has been involved in in the resettlement of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. He has served our Synod and the cause of humanitarianism with dedication and sincerity. Special mention should be made of the sainted Doctor W. Harry Krieger, our Fifth Vice-President, whom the Lord called home during this biennium. He was a true man of God, and his services will be long remembered.

A special word of thanks is due to our tireless secretary, Doctor Herbert Mueller, who has been a constant inspiration to all who know him as a man of great integrity and Christian dedication.

Doctor Milton Carpenter, our synodical Treasurer, has given freely of his time under very difficult circumstances, and often under unjustified personal attacks, to render significant service on a full-time basis in a position which pays no salary.

Likewise I would like to give a special word of commendation to the Board of Directors of the Synod and its administrative officer, Mr. John Schuelke. These men gave unstintingly and generously of their time in the very difficult months of 1974. The entire story can never be told of the efforts these men made to bring about reconciliation and to keep the Synod moving. During the dark and tragic days of early 1974 they literally held the Synod together and kept the sister churches in our treasured fellowship. They have also helped to coordinate the work of the various boards and auxiliaries in an area in which they should be given authority commensurate with the responsibilities laid upon them. I wish you would all read carefully pages 144 to 148 of the *Convention Workbook* to get a little idea of the efforts of the Board of Directors to deal with our problems in a loving and evangelical way.

To all members of all boards, commissions, and com-

mittees of the Synod, together with the numerous ad hoc committees which were created, to all of our faithful and hard-working staff at 500 and at Concordia Publishing House, to all missionaries, professors in our schools, to all pastors and teachers, and to all members of our church a sincere word of thanks is very much in order. God has blessed the Missouri Synod with great talent and with loyal and sincere Christian people.

I would like to make a special word of thanks also to my own staff, the Reverend Robert Sauer, Miss Jean Buettner, and Miss Elizabeth Kops, all of whom have given unstintingly of their time and talents.

Likewise a word of thanks to the Lutheran Laymen's League and its president, Mr. Gus Melde, to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and its president, Mrs. Florence Montz, and to all of the auxiliary organizations of the Synod who in their own particular areas of service have made a signal and important contribution to the work of our beloved church.

Last but not least, we are sincerely grateful to Almighty God for those faithful servants whose labors in the kingdom are ended, who now rest in the Lord, and whose works do follow them.

To say that the past biennium has been an easy period in the history of our church would be to say something that is not true, and yet through it all our heavenly Father has blessed us, and our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, who has told us that His "grace is sufficient for us and that His strength is made perfect in weakness," has stood beside us and helped and guided us. Truly we know the truth of the statement: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." We have endured many tragedies and sorrows. Some of them could have been avoided, and others could not have been. I say these things in love for all concerned and in a sincere desire that the wounds may be healed and that all of us may leave this convention in joy and happiness. Some problems do remain, and I believe the convention can take actions which will go a long way towards solving them.

It is evident that for the past two decades at least we have had two opposing theologies, particularly with reference to the doctrine of Holy Scripture. No church body can long support two theologies which are in conflict. We have spoken and set forth clearly our doctrinal position both at New Orleans and throughout the entire history of our Synod. The people of our congregations have a right to be assured and to know that the men and women who are called to serve as workers in their midst are firmly dedicated to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and that they will teach and carry out the duties of their office in conformity with our faith and practice.

We have made some progress in solving our doctrinal problems. I believe the convocation, which was held a few months ago, was helpful both in creating a better climate and in delineating some of the issues. I am convinced that our church wants to stand firmly on God's Word and our Lutheran Confessions, and proposals are coming from various committees which should be very helpful in bringing this matter to a happy and Scriptural

conclusion. One of the basic issues that has troubled us has been the matter of the inerrancy of the Bible. I think it should be evident to us that to permit people to teach that the Bible contains errors not only dishonors the God who has given us His Word but also makes the solution of doctrinal problems absolutely impossible.

With regard to the Advisory Council on Doctrine and Conciliation, which was appointed in January of 1974 under the chairmanship of Doctor Arnold G. Kuntz, in order to delineate the doctrinal issues which have troubled us, I can report that the committee met as recently as June 26, 1975, in order to attempt to finalize its report and suggest ways to the church for addressing itself to the doctrinal problems which have troubled us. The material is not as yet in, but it will be turned over to me, hopefully by the end of the summer, and then I will be in a position to give a more complete report on the work and activities of this committee.

The experience of the committee indicates that to address ourselves effectively to doctrinal differences will require that all of us adopt an attitude which seeks the service of the whole church and avoids self-serving.

Our doctrinal controversy has produced further problems which, while not specifically doctrinal, are certainly vexing to us, and we need to speak briefly of these and seek solutions to them at this convention. First, we have the problems of Seminex and uncertified graduates who are entering the parishes of the Synod.

With reference to the Seminex students and professors, I believe that the proposals made by Committees 3 and 6 are eminently fair and loving. We want these young men who have been caught in a difficult situation to be in the ministry of the Synod. But the Synod has the right to know that they are doctrinally sound according to the Scriptures and the Confessions and will conduct their ministry in keeping with the Constitution and have been properly endorsed. These difficulties should be straightened out at this time, for no organization can permit those who apply for admission to dictate the terms of their admission. This the Synod reserves for itself. Likewise with regard to the professors at Seminex. We want to be fair and loving toward them. We want no one to be under a cloud of charges of false doctrine who is not guilty of false doctrine. The proposals made by the committee appear to present fair and proper ways to resolve these difficult problems.

I am convinced that the Boards of Control of our schools and our District Presidents, who recognize the talents and contributions which these men can make, will do everything in their power to bring them back into areas of service in the Synod where they can serve with blessing and joy, if that cloud is removed by the committee being proposed in a resolution from Committee 3.

We also have a sad and difficult problem in that a small number of District Presidents, for reasons which are well understood and with which one can certainly sympathize, have found themselves at odds with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. The Council of Presidents has discussed this matter at very great length, and efforts have been made in the Council to have all of the members take a united stand in regard to

our commitment to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. Vice-President Bernthal and I met with the eight Presidents who are particularly involved in this matter as recently as June 19, 1975, in an effort to solve this problem before the convention if possible, but I have to admit that we did not entirely succeed. I hope that the Council will continue to minister to its members, but these problems also need to be dealt with here at the convention. We want to be fair in our treatment of all of our officials, yet at the same time we must be firm. No church can run on organizational anarchy.

Since the Synod exists for "the *protection* of pastors, teachers, and congregations in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights" (Article III), it is imperative that the church have officers at all levels, beginning with the President and the corporate officers and extending to the Presidents of our Districts, who are carrying out their work in keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. God is a god of order, and the apostle has commanded that all things be done decently and in order. If we are to maintain a blessed and useful walking together, we must all carry out our duties in keeping with the regulations which the church has established for the performance of those duties.

While we respect the consciences of those who have violated the Constitution, and while every chance has been given them and should be given to them to explain their position as to why they do not believe they have violated the Constitution, the convention must finally decide who understands the Constitution correctly and then must finally insist that those who serve as officers of the Synod, whether at the synodical or the District level, give assurance to the Synod that they will carry out their duties in keeping with the Synod's understanding of its Constitution and Bylaws. Just as one of our Vice-Presidents remarked some years ago, we cannot run a church convention with a thousand parliamentarians, so we cannot run a church with each official insisting on his own interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws. The Synod speaks, and her servants either agree to perform their duties in keeping with the will of the Synod or remove themselves from office.

We have also had the problem of the dissenting movement known as ELIM. I believe that the resolution proposed by Committee 3 is a fair and loving one. The church cannot long endure an organization in her midst which establishes alternate or competing programs for such vital matters as the education of church workers and the mission program of the Synod and even goes so far as to place uncertified candidates in congregations of the Synod and on the mission fields of the Synod. The divisiveness and confusion caused by this organization, as well as the draining off of funds, contribute to polarization and lack of trust and love among us. ELIM has announced a budget of \$1,800,000. Think of what this could do for mission expansion if we could get together as a Synod and settle our difficulties. I would, on behalf of the Synod, beseech the people involved in ELIM to use the channels of dissent which the Synod has created for this purpose. The Synod welcomes dissent. We need proper criticism. We all err and need correction. I want to

say at this point that I myself am surely not above correction and criticism. I have done many things for which I am sorry and ask the forgiveness both of God and of the Synod. I have on occasion been impatient, I have been sarcastic. I have not always shown the love toward all in the Synod that I should have shown, and for this I ask the forgiveness both of the church and of the individuals involved. If in the conduct of my office I have said or done things deserving of the censure of the convention, I will accept such censure, even to the point of resigning my office, should this be your will.

By the same token I would beseech those who have been involved in divisive movements that they come to terms with their church and try to live at peace with their brethren. If there are those who are doctrinally at such odds with the church that they cannot live at peace with their church or teach in conformity with our doctrinal position, then for their own good, as well as that of the Synod, it would seem that wisdom would dictate that they try to find a church home in which they could live with greater happiness.

We also have had problems with our Mission Department, an outgrowth of the Seminex and ELIM difficulties, but I will allude to these at a different point.

Several months ago I issued a report which was sent to the pastors and chairmen of the congregations of the Synod. This report was first delivered to the Board of Directors, who encouraged me to give it a wider dissemination. In that report I stated that my travels throughout the Synod, the hundreds of letters received each week, conversations with pastors, teachers, and lay people in all parts of the Synod convinced me that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod wants three things. We want sound doctrine. We want to be a Biblical and Confessional Lutheran Church. Parents want their children nurtured in the true faith. We have demonstrated often in great agony our firm determination to remain the kind of church doctrinally that we have been.

I am equally convinced that the overwhelming majority of the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod want peace. There is a tremendous feeling of exhaustion and frustration at our inability to bring about peace and reconciliation in our midst. The need for peace at every level in the church is imperative, not only for the sake of the personal well-being of individuals but even more importantly for the sake of the peace and well-being of the entire church and for the achievement of her mission. It is my most fervent prayer that God will give peace to us through the resolutions and actions of this convention.

And finally, I am convinced that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is anxious to make progress. We are living in a world of incalculable challenges and opportunities. There are three billion people in the world who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ. There are over a hundred million in our nation and millions more in Canada. There has never been so much money which could be put to use for the work of the kingdom of God. There have never been so many avenues for mass-media presentation of the Gospel. One third of the congregations at present are following up on the informa-

tion sent them by our television board regarding inquiries for further information regarding the Lutheran faith. This gives us tremendous opportunities for outreach. We have more pastors and congregations than ever before in our history. Our people last year contributed \$300 million for the cause of the church, a 7½% increase over the previous year. This is a time when great opportunities and talents are available to us. We have reached the highest communicant membership in our history, even though at the same time we have to confess that our baptized membership has fallen off slightly for the last three years. We must be about the work of dealing with our backdoor losses and regaining those who move away or lose interest in the church. We must be about the Lord's work in all aspects. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, died for all of the four billion people in the world, and it is absolutely imperative that we in our age and generation make His Lordship known to the widest possible audience.

In carrying out the mission of the church, we as a Synod have chosen to work through the structures of the Synod, beginning with the local congregation, moving out to the circuit and the District and finally the general Synod, with its boards, commissions, and committees. Therefore I would like to make brief comments relative to the proposals made by some of the floor committees as these pertain to the great and wonderful work which our Lord has committed to us in bringing His message of forgiveness and eternal life to a world lost in sin and darkness. We are here to review the work of the Synod for the past biennium and plan for the next two years and many years ahead.

This convention should give serious thought to the proposals of Committee 1 on evangelism. The convention of New Orleans asked that the Anaheim convention be one in which evangelism received primary emphasis. We have an excellent evangelism board and staff, and Committee 1 has produced some creative and innovative proposals. It is my sincere hope that as we talk of pure doctrine and peace and progress we do not take the attitude of merely contending for pure doctrine but that we are filled with a holy zeal to bring this holy and precious teaching of God's Word into every home in our Synod, in our nation, and into every corner of the world. Evangelism must not only be a strong emphasis for a convention, but even more, it must be the ongoing emphasis of every congregation, every pastor and teacher, and every layman in our Synod, so that no one can rest or relax until every human being in the world knows our blessed Lord Jesus Christ and confesses Him as Lord. It is a commentary that 47% of our congregations last year confirmed zero or one adult. It is also a bright spot to note that the number of adult accessions increased considerably last year, and we pray God that this trend will continue. Our Council of Presidents must put this matter on the agenda of every meeting. Each congregation should set high goals and strive to reach them. We need to remember the old adage that a home-visiting pastor makes a churchgoing congregation.

With regard to the proposals of Committee 2 on missions, I hope that you have all given these proposals

very careful study. As you know, we had some difficulties in the relationship between the Board for Missions and the staff which were carried into some of the sister churches. I am happy to report that, due to the efforts of all parties concerned and particularly to the efforts of Doctor Linse and Pastor Louis Meyer of the Mission Study Commission, a much better spirit prevails among the sister churches and I believe also among the missionaries than was the case a year ago. The traumatic experiences of 1974 are behind us. But special mention should be made of the steadfastness of missionaries who not only remained at their posts but also exerted a pastoral and loving role, together with the national leaders of the sister churches, and for this we certainly should thank Almighty God. The wisdom and churchmanship shown by presidents of sister churches is an inspiration to all who have been closely associated with them. I am happy to report that not only have the sister churches remained with us but in many instances experienced significant and important growth. India has added about 3,000 members and New Guinea over 5,000. I believe that we are well on the way to a solution to the split in Hong Kong.

But even more important than the solution to problems has been the deepening understanding which we at the synodical headquarters have gained regarding the talents and leadership abilities of the national leaders of the sister churches. President G. Thomas Edward of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church visited the United States, addressed the Board of Directors and several pastoral conferences, and raised \$50,000 during that one month's visit to our country. President Waesa of New Guinea was with us to arrange for the transfer of land leases in his country from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the Wabag Lutheran Church. This is not only important under the laws of Papua New Guinea, but it is important as a symbol of the true sister churchhood of the Wabag Lutheran Church. President Chiu of Hong Kong visited St. Louis and spoke of the challenges of carrying the Gospel to 20 million expatriate Chinese throughout the world and of the plans the Hong Kong mission is making for carrying out the work of the church under a Communist form of government. President McAmis of the Philippine Lutheran Church reported a 7% gain in membership during the past year and brought great joy to all who had an opportunity to visit with him. The Reverend Paul Fynn, the first ordained Lutheran pastor in Ghana, West Africa, is in the United States at this time, and I have invited him to be with us at this convention. I wish all of you could hear of his plans to bring Christ to both Ghana and all of West Africa. Mr. Walter Schieber of the Central American field is with us also, with a story of service and mission to that great area of the world. Several missionaries have been home on furlough and also have brought a story of sacrificial service in the interest of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I have to report the tragic death of Missionary Paul Schirmer, an Australian who was serving the India Evangelical Lutheran Church. He was killed in an automobile accident a couple of weeks ago.

One of the great challenges before this convention is

to devise ways and means whereby a wider and deeper support base for the work of the sister churches may be developed. There is not a single church affiliated with us overseas which is receiving sufficient financial support to carry on a kind of expansion and to give the kind of support to the national workers for the work which they are doing with such great sacrifice and devotion. We need to think in terms of raising much larger amounts of money in order to raise the salaries of national workers, provide better quarters for pastors and congregations, schools and hospitals, and other institutions that are maintained in foreign countries. We also need to give much thought and commensurate financial support to enable us to expand into new areas. The Synod must be about this all-important work if we really believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and if we want Him to be the Lord of all men.

It was my privilege and honor to visit the Asian sister churches in both 1973 and 1974. These visits gave me a much greater insight into the work that is going on overseas. The sister churches must become organizationally self-sufficient. In keeping with the report of the Mission Study Commission, we need to develop working agreements which are acceptable both to the sister churches and to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which will guarantee the sovereignty of these churches and enable them to develop a truly national identity, without sacrifice of the doctrinal heritage which we share together. We need to explore new areas of the world and sustain the work both in North America and overseas.

The presidents of all of the sister churches who make up the International Lutheran Theological Conference are scheduled to meet in Brazil in November. I believe that this is going to be an extremely important meeting for strengthening the ties which exist among us and for encouraging and supporting one another in the expansion of the work throughout the world.

On the home front it would seem imperative that congregations should be encouraged, in consultation with their Districts, to look for new areas surrounding them where satellite or daughter congregations could be established. We do not need to think that all of the American mission work needs to come from District motivation. Congregations are doing some excellent work, and more of this needs to be done in the area of establishing new congregations and expanding their ministry.

I would like to call the convention's attention to Resolution 2-09. For several years a Black Caucus has been held which is basically a conference of our black pastors. This caucus has done some very good thinking relative to the whole matter of black work done within our Synod and within our nation. Unfortunately the caucus has no official voice or authority, such as a regular pastoral conference has.

In connection with this, there is also the celebration of the Centennial of Black Work which will be announced at this convention. The thrust of both Resolution 2-09 and the Black Centennial is to give greater prominence to black work and to black leadership within the Synod, particularly as it applies to bringing the

Gospel to that very large minority in our population. The creation of a Black Mission Model Task Force is something that would be a very helpful step in affirming black work and black workers in carrying out the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One aspect of the church's mission is to contend for the faith, and this is brought to our attention in the report of Committee 3 on Theology and Church Relations. Resolution 3-01, "To Seek Unity," brings to us some very positive and helpful proposals both for solving the doctrinal problems which still exist and for strengthening us in our faith and adding to our understanding of God's Holy Word. I would urge your very careful study of this resolution and hope that it will meet with the favorable reaction of the convention.

As a result of our conflict we have more people studying the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions than we have had in generations. I firmly believe that history will look at our controversy much differently than we do. History will record that there was a church which was willing to suffer public ignominy and humiliation, loss of income, reduction of program, and strife which reached even into our schools and congregations, rather than lose its Biblical faith and heritage. To use a popular expression, we were willing to go to the mat for our faith, and there is no doubt as to the outcome. The orthodox and historic faith which we have confessed for 128 years as a Synod and 460 years as a Lutheran confessing movement has prevailed overwhelmingly. An article by Reverend Glenn Stone in the *Lutheran Forum* for May 1975 makes this very interesting statement:

Missouri Lutherans historically have claimed—more outspokenly than many others—to have been gifted with truth. We make no judgment on whether their confession has really been purer, their fidelity greater, their proclamation more robust than that of other Lutherans and Christians. This much we believe, however: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has made important contributions to world Christianity. For example, do Missourians realize that, in terms of present Lutheran consensus their views in the 19th century controversy over conversion and election have "won" the debate? No one ever signed a surrender pact, of course (it may have been Missouri's insistence that others, in effect, do so that long delayed the recognition of consensus). But the *Sola Gratia* is more firmly entrenched in all brands of Lutheran theology than it was before C. F. W. Walther raised the issue a century ago.

Editor Stone is correct. The verdict of history is that Missouri was correct, and one hundred years later that for which our fathers contended so valiantly is now the faith of all. I am confident that by our strong contending for the faith of historic Christianity and historic Lutheranism regarding the basic doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*, we will go down in history not just as a group of contentious and quarrelsome nitpickers, but as a church which cared about its teachings and its faith and ultimately prevailed. That for which we are contending so strongly today will become the faith of many more as the years go on. We have determined that no philosophy of writing history and no literary critic using hypothetical theories regarding the origin of the Bible will take away from us our childlike faith in the clear and inerrant Word which testifies to and connects us with our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this reason I also see us playing a stronger and more vital role in interchurch activities as we testify to our Lutheran understanding of the faith in our dealings with other churches. We will be able to act out of confidence and not confusion or uncertainty.

Committee 3 also calls for the continuation of our membership in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. Recent activities of the Board of Directors have been very helpful in calling to the attention of both the Council and all three of the participating bodies that economy and efficiency need to be stressed. On the other hand, the recent catastrophe regarding Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees brings to the fore the need for such an interchurch agency and our participation in it. The Council is not a church, not a unionistic activity, but a service organization which exists to help the churches do together what they can do with good conscience and in keeping with their principles.

Likewise the committee is suggesting the continuation of our fellowship with The American Lutheran Church. An action of breaking fellowship must not be taken precipitously, and it is my conviction that with our much more united state doctrinally we are going to be able to bring witness and testimony to The American Lutheran Church in a way which we have not been able to do before. Therefore I believe we owe it both to The American Lutheran Church and to ourselves to continue in this fellowship in order that all of the issues may be thoroughly discussed and all parties properly informed, before taking action on this matter.

Committee 3 also has a very fine resolution on the subject of protecting the unborn. In an age when killing has become a way of life, perhaps we are among a small minority in our concern about the preservation of the life of unborn children, and yet I believe that this voice should continue to be raised and the proposals suggested by Committee 3 be adopted. Members of our Synod have been among the outstanding proponents of the pro-life movement throughout our nation, and some very interesting and helpful ecumenical relationships have been developed because of our activity in this area.

Time will not permit a review of the work of each floor committee. With reference to the proposals of Committee 4 I would call attention particularly to those having to do with stewardship. There is simply no use in talking about mission expansion or colleges or any of the other great things with which we are to be concerned unless we are willing to support these plans and visions with our material gifts. We have increased our giving very well at the parish level, but at the District and Synod level we continue to lag. I hope that attention will be given not only at this convention but in every congregation of the Synod to ways in which the mission of the church as carried on by the Synod can receive the kind of support that is needed if we are to carry out the mission which our Lord has asked us to do.

For example, the pastors and our co-workers in the sister church in India are working on a salary of \$40 a month. In Ghana two wonderful young men have been ordained into the Lutheran ministry, and we could offer them no more than positions as worker priests, whereby

they would have to earn their living doing secular work. Our co-workers in Brazil and Argentina are living under conditions of frightening inflation. All over the world, dedicated and talented people are being forced to work at minimal and substandard wages simply because we do not supply them with the necessary wherewithal. There is no reason why the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who for an entire generation led all major denominations in per-capita giving, cannot have a tremendous outpouring of love and devotion so that all people in the world may know the Lordship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A group of prominent lay people have organized an effort known as "Faith in Action." They hope to raise \$1,000,000 for the Synod's budget. They need volunteers. Mr. Ben Jutzi of the Lutheran Laymen's League is leading this effort. I urge our lay people to contact him at the Lutheran Laymen's League suite at the Holiday Inn to volunteer your service and receive additional information.

In the area of higher education we have some very difficult and knotty problems facing us. The convention should give very serious consideration to all of these issues. But one particular issue needs our constant attention, and that is the matter of the recruitment of students for our colleges, the recruitment of church workers both on and off the campuses of our colleges, and the continued responsibility of pastors and congregations in encouraging young men and women to enter the respective ministries of our church. This ought to receive top priority at all levels.

In the area of parish services (Committee 7), please note the emphasis on youth evangelism. A rather interesting fact has emerged, namely, that in the years between baptism and confirmation, 32 percent of the children who have been baptized are not confirmed. This is a rather new development which has been going on since about 1965. There seems to be a great need for better care and better follow-up on children who have been baptized but somehow never arrive at the confirmation altar. We also need to give considerable attention to the decline in Sunday school enrollment. Also please note the resolutions pertaining to the use of the *Lutheran Witness*. This fine paper should be in every home in the Synod. District editions and special papers are useful, but they cannot replace the *Witness* with its devotional material and its news of the church at large.

In this same connection I would like to call attention to the Growth in Ministry program which the Synod has undertaken. There needs to be constant support for the parish pastor. He is living under very difficult conditions, and I hope that our congregations will treat their pastors with love and concern and that the pastors in turn will seek to develop the finest possible relationships with their flocks. There is a considerable amount of anticlericalism both in our church and elsewhere at this particular time in history, and every effort needs to be made to keep pastor and people working together and developing and growing in their ministry.

I could go on and on with recommendations relative to

some of the proposals which are before you, but time does not permit, and you are eminently capable of making wise and good decisions.

The Synod has not as yet taken any firm action regarding the location of the 1977 convention. It will have the opportunity to do so at this Anaheim convention.

For some time the good people in Texas had been making tentative plans for holding the convention within the boundaries of their District. However, there are also very cogent reasons for giving serious consideration to holding the 1977 convention in St. Louis, and the Texas District President has indicated a willingness to hold in abeyance the invitation to Texas for 1977.

The convention manager advises that about \$200,000 in savings on travel costs and about 20% in room costs could be expected if we were to hold the convention in St. Louis in 1977. Both the Texas and the St. Louis alternatives had received discussion in the Council of Presidents in at least partial fulfillment of the requirement of Bylaw 1.39 b.

I am asking Committee 4 to study this matter and if possible to bring a firm recommendation to the floor of this convention. If that should prove to be impossible, let me remind you that the Bylaw states (Bylaw 1.39 a):

Before adjournment the convention shall decide upon the time and place of the next convention. If the convention fails to do this, the President shall do so. In case of necessity he may change the appointed time and place of meeting.

Naturally I would much prefer to have the convention make this decision instead of placing the burden on the President of the Synod.

Let this one thought always dominate our voting, our devotional life, our conversations with one another, and every moment that we spend together at this convention: Jesus Christ is our Lord. Let His Lordship show through everything that we do here. Let us not be thinking of ourselves or putting ourselves above others but putting Christ in the position of preeminence. He is truly our Lord, and all of our lives could never give us time enough to praise and honor Him. Let the bowing of the knee begin here at this convention as we join in working together and deliberating and praying and talking and fellowshiping, always on our knees before our great and blessed and gracious Lord Jesus Christ.

And now for just a few matters pertaining to our conduct of this convention. I would beg all delegates to keep cool, not to respond to personal attack or to over-react. Here is where we really test the Lordship of Christ. Let us strive, as I believe the floor committees have striven, to build golden bridges. Let us show love toward one another and toward the congregations at home. If there is any movement on the part of some to leave the Synod, let us do all we can to keep the congregations with the Synod in order that the sheep may be fed on the pure milk and meat of the Word and that the truth may be taught in our midst.



President Preus and Parliamentarian Stickel

We are standing at a threshold. If we lose our tempers and allow the old Adam to rule us, great harm could be done to the church, the Synod, our congregations and people. But if we remain calm and fair and loving but firm, we can enter the greatest era of our history—with greater doctrinal unity, greater mission zeal, and greater dedication to one another and to our dear Lord Jesus. May the Holy Spirit be with us and watch over us, so that in all things Christ our Lord may be the Victor and all glory go to Him alone.

J. A. O. PREUS

Assignments to the Administration by the 1973 New Orleans Convention

Actions of the President on the following 1973 resolutions are reported in the 1975 convention *Workbook* under Report 3-01 of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, pp. 39—63; Report 5-02 of the Committee for Reorganization and Constitution Review, pp. 207—216; Report 9-03 of the Black Centennial Committee, p. 409; Report 9-04 of the American Bicentennial Committee, pp. 409—410; and Report 14-01 of the Convention Format Committee, pp. 427—428:

- 2-09 *To Continue Participation in Meetings of the Consultation on Lutheran Unity*
- 2-13 *To Continue Discussions with the Lutheran Church in America*
- 2-48 *To Answer Protests*
- 2-49 *To Establish a Task Force to Study Women's Role*
- 4-43 *To Appoint a Committee for Reorganization*
- 5-04 *To Change Format of Conventions*
- 11-06 *To Commemorate 200th Anniversary of the United States*
- 11-22 *To Recognize 100th Anniversary of Ministry Among Black Brothers*

Action on other resolutions:

- 2-17 *To Establish Closer Liaison re Doctrinal Supervision at Valparaiso University*
Correspondence relating to this matter is being carried on between the president of Valparaiso University and the President of the Synod.
- 2-43 *To Decline Overture 2-88 (Doctrinal Supervision)*
This resolution has been carried out by the President in meetings with the Council of Presidents.
- 2-47 *To Call for Unity of the Church in Mission*
This resolution has been implemented at various meetings and especially in "A Report to the Church," issued by the President in January 1975 and sent to all pastors and congregations of the Synod.
- 3-08 *To Clarify Questions of Suspension*
The Committee for Reorganization is dealing with the matter of clarifying suspension, and therefore nothing independent has been done by my office. We await a report from the Committee for Reorganization.
- 8-01 *To Establish 1975 Synodical convention Theme*
This has been implemented.
- 8-03 *To Establish Evangelism Priority*
These resolutions are being implemented at the present convention.
- 9-16 *To Strengthen Our Ministry in Behalf of North American Indians, Eskimos, and Métis.*
The President designated July 14, 1974, as Indian Concerns Sunday.
- 11-20 *To Refer the Herman Otten Case to the President of Synod for Resolution*
Correspondence relating to this matter is being carried on between Pastor Otten and the President.

CONVENTION SERMON

Ring the Bell! Jesus Christ Is Lord

PHIL. 2:5-11

Shortly after World War II a popular novel of John Hersey's swept America entitled *A Bell for Adano*. It was the story of an American unit's experience in attempting to bring order out of chaos in an Italian village and to restore it to normalcy. The first committee of local citizens to call on the American commander did not request food, medical supplies, or materials to patch up their shell-torn homes. Their request was strange. They asked the commander to get a bell for their church. When the tides of war had swept through, their bell had disappeared. That bell had been their inspiration, the symbol of all their hopes and dreams, and now it was gone. Nothing else really mattered anymore. They wanted a bell for Adano. After many difficulties the Americans were able to find a bell, and when the villagers heard it ring, joy came to Adano. Hope once again was bright in the eyes of those people.

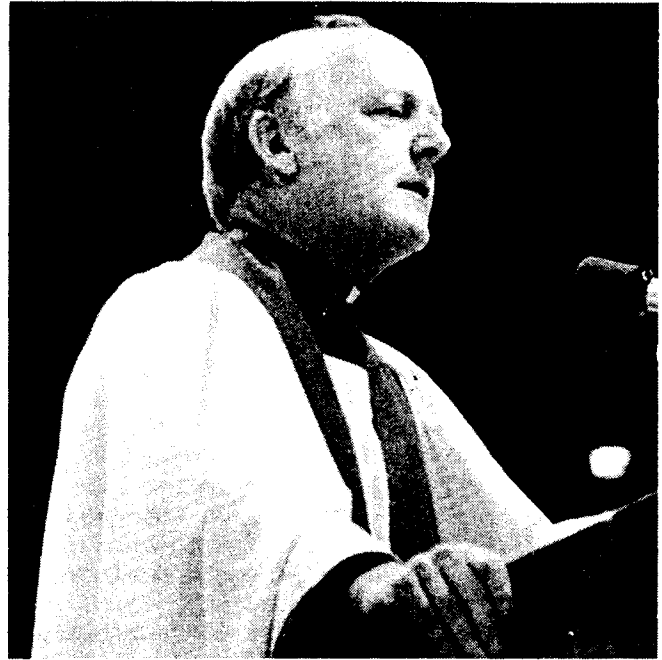
Forty days after the resurrection Jesus called His disciples together and spoke last words to them. He said, as it were, "Children of Mine, go ring the bell of good tidings to all of the world. Men are longing to hear a bell ring. Ring, then, the bell of hope in a world of despair. Go ring it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Lord."

We have a bell to ring. Jesus Christ is Lord. He's got to be. There isn't anyone like Him.

It didn't always look as though He were Lord. He was born in the likeness of man. Like us He lived through storm and sunshine, He was hurt by what hurts us. It all led to that day when He was crushed by the kingdom of evil. He was slapped and spit upon, nailed to the cross. He died. It looked like He was a failure. He was beaten by His enemies, beaten by life, now beaten and crushed by the cross.

But look at Him as He went down into death. The three hours of darkness are over. The crowd is awed into silence by the darkness and by the words that a dying man speaks to both friend and foe. Suddenly He raises His head once more and cries out in supreme, absolute triumph, "It is finished!" To those who were standing at the foot of the cross these words must have sounded strange indeed. They were killing Him, but He seemed to feel He had won a victory. He had.

If those at the foot of the cross had but eyes to see, they would have seen every thorn in His crown become a shining gem in His crown of glory. If they had ears to hear, they would have heard the ringing of bells, countless witnesses, telling the world that Jesus is Lord. The arms of the cross reach out and encircle the whole creation in a passionate embrace, and under them stands the royal apostle Paul crying, "Because He was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, therefore God has also highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father."



Vice-President August Bernthal

Jesus is Lord. His followers saw Him and knew Him. They saw Him dead and buried, and three days later they saw Him brought back to life. And life was never the same since. "God raised this Man Jesus to life," they said, "and all of us are witnesses to that." They were faithful witnesses not given to telling lies. They were not dreaming. It was not a myth; it was Jesus. It was not a beautiful idea; it was God saying He is Lord. It was the divine answer to His suffering and His death and obedience to the Father's will to accomplish the salvation of the world. It was Jesus standing by an open tomb and saying, "Mary!" It was Mary saying, "Master!" It was Mary telling others, the others telling their friends, and their friends telling the world that God had made this Jesus, crucified by wicked and wayward hands, both Lord and Christ. He is the ever-living and never-dying Lord of all. That's as real today as it was in the day when He was raised from the dead and delivered by God Himself to be both Lord and Christ.

That's the bell to ring. It tells of God's love in spite of everything — of His glad acceptance of us as we are, of His forgiveness that is not earned but freely given. We know why He came. Man disobeyed God; he revolted. He's responsible to God, and the wages of sin is death. Man is judged. Every man needs to be right with God, and not until he has peace with God can he be free to live and sing and celebrate. What Christ has to give us we know full well, but never for a moment can we exhaust its meaning. Christ's perfect obedience is ours. His pay-

ment for the penalty of sin is yours and mine. God looks upon it and declares us just because of what Christ has done for us. And being justified we have peace, peace after the way we have lived and acted and rebelled and fallen short. Yes, because right here and now we are at the place again where nothing can restore our integrity but the free pardon of God. Here is God taking the initiative, going into action first, and doing it for the undeserving — and that's grace. It is God giving us a new life now and the certainty of an eternity even more abundant. It's good news for everyone.

You know what it meant to Paul. It made him cry out, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? I must declare this thing or die. Necessity is laid upon me. Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." And ring the bell he did. The great mountain ranges of Asia and the hazards of the sea were no barrier for Paul, for behind them were men living without the Lord of Life and dying without Christ, the only Way, Truth, and Life. Paul was always talking about the Lord Jesus, the only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortality and who dwells in a light no man can approach unto. The Lordship of Christ certified in the resurrection is the fact which launched Christianity upon the world and conquered the thrones of Caesar. Here is the Rock on which the church is built and has stood for 2,000 years. Here is the good news which millions of times has dried the tears of the desolate, and we know it's true.

Oh, if only we could recapture this faith here and now. How it would make it possible for us to stand up in a world of jet diplomacy, intercontinental missiles, cybernetics, the occult, and shout, "Jesus Christ is Lord. He's alive and living with us. He is here with us right now." To really know that He is Lord — what that would do for us! How vitalized would be our worship, how reinforced our mission. Then things would begin to happen. And to gird the church for its task of mission and evangelism, what do we need? More modern techniques? No doubt. More up-to-date methods? No doubt. More and better use of mass media? No doubt. More contemporary structures of church life? Perhaps. But basically the need is this: the conviction that the risen Christ is with us now. That He is Lord — the Lord who has given us such great riches.

Today at this Synod this conquering, living Lord says to us, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." He bids us come: "Come unto Me. Let everyone come, let anyone come, and I will give him rest." And He says to all who have received Him as God's greatest Gift, to all who call Him Lord, "Go. You have come; now go. You are cleansed; now go. Go and do for others what I have done for you."

One day when Robert Browning was sitting at his desk, his wife softly slipped behind him and placed a manuscript in his jacket pocket. Elizabeth Barrett Browning then went upstairs while her husband read some of the most beautiful words ever written by a woman to her husband: "The face of all the world has changed, I think, since first I heard the footsteps of thy soul." This is the kind of bell that rings in the hearts of those who follow Jesus. We know what it means to have

that joy deep in our hearts. We know what it means to bring our broken lives to God and say, "Please, God, fix it." We know what it means to whisper to Him who is nearer than breathing, "Take over, Lord," and have Him do it. We know what it means to have Him do it. We know what it means to have Him say when we're worried, "Look at the flowers of the field, or listen to the birds. They don't worry or stew; why should you?" And we know that what He does for us He can do for others if they will but let Him. That power is available for all.

Picture a hand holding a bottle up to the faucet, water flowing from the top enveloping the whole bottle, but not a drop gets inside. Why? The cork shuts off the water. Even so, it's literally true of hundreds of people around us. No matter how much joy and power is around from God, God cannot come into their lives so long as they resist or do not know. And it's for us as God's instruments to ring the bell.

Yet not the least of the sins which we Christians confess is an amazing lack of concern for the souls of people. When a missionary who had been sent home as an invalid was asked why he was so intent on returning to the mission field, he replied, "Because I can't sleep thinking of them." So often we must confess, "I cannot think of them, because I'm so inclined to sleep." Oh, it's true, some obey His command, but many do not. We pray, we give for missions, we often witness, but so often there is so little urgency, compulsion, or sacrifice in our efforts. No urgency because there's really so little listening to the voice of God, who speaks the just and unmistakable decrees of the King of all the earth. "He that believeth not shall be damned." Totally separated from God, to be without a glint of hope or cheer forever and ever — the very thought makes one shudder. And moreover, this is not something that is happening in the distant future. It is happening right now; men and women and children are dying when they could have been walking, all of them, the glory road through Christ.

And we know for whom we should ring the bell. What a challenge! The history of the world tells us that there are special times when the fields are white. Many men agree that these years in which we are now living are the most decisive in the history of the world since Christ walked the sands of Galilee. We know the fantastic population growth. It is estimated that 25 years from now nearly 7 billion people will be on the earth, more than double the present number. And we know what that means, even here and now. Unless the love of God is going to control the hearts of men, we may be on the verge of worldwide revolt and worldwide racial wars far too horrible to contemplate. The world has become a neighborhood without becoming a brotherhood. The world's population is growing at the rate of 62½ million a year. Just to keep pace, we need 185,000 souls won to Christ every day, 7,708 every hour, 127 every minute.

What a field today! Of the 3 billion people in the world only 750 million have heard the good news. Someone has estimated that, if all the non-Christians in the world were placed in one line, it would be 300,000 miles in length and would circle the circumference of the earth twelve times. If this afternoon they were to march

past this place, six abreast, one step every second, 8 hours each day, many of us, would never see the end of the line, for 47 years would be required. It is not an impossible task—at least not mathematically. If one Christian talked to another and after 6 months that man became a Christian—and those two in 6 months won two more—and those four in 6 months four more, etc.—after 16 years there would be 4 billion, about the population of the world!

And what of our own land? On Independence Day we remind ourselves it's true that a nation is blessed only when its God is the Lord. We had better take a hard look at our land. Is there anyone among us who will say that our country is living in the same spirit as our founding fathers with a profound faith and trust in God, acknowledging Him to be Head and Lord? Are we a God-fearing nation, or are we akin to those of whom Moses wrote when he predicted that in the land of milk and honey they would wax fat and turn to other gods? Someone has estimated that 20 million family units have no religious affiliation at all. Only 2½ million don't have refrigerators, only 17 million no television sets, only 12 million no automobiles, but 20 million families no church affiliation. It is estimated that 40 percent of our elementary school children have no religious connection, 80 percent of our high school students do not have an active church life, and 90 percent of our students on college campuses sleep in on Sunday. And what is the result? The courage of Bunker Hill and the valor of the Delaware crossing have been replaced by another spirit.

That nation alone is great whose God is the Lord. We have written that affirmation into our Constitution, we have stamped it on our currency, we have repeated it in our salute to the flag, sung it in our national anthem, affirmed it as each President takes office with the words, "So help me God." The first prayer in Congress began, "O Lord, our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings and Lord of lords," and it concludes with the words, "In the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Savior."

Jesus Christ is Lord. It's time for our nation and for the world and the church to become afraid of Him perhaps. He has a strange and terrible way of coming back into a sin-loving world and a cold, indifferent church and throwing down the candlesticks as He did 2,000 years ago when Jerusalem crumbled into dust and ashes. Where one cross had stood, now there were hundreds. Men shouted, "We have no king but Caesar." And they had no king but Caesar. America, Jesus Christ is Lord.

And what prospects! All around us are people restless and groping and hungry. They don't know for what. What is it but a hunger for some real bread of life—the longing of the exiled to breath his native air—the psalmist's quest, "My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."

So reach out! "Go!" Not only with talk but with deeds. That means social concern. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, heal the sick, house the refugees, promote economic justice, battle racism, wipe out poverty, fight for social justice, erase world hunger. Go out, as did our

Lord, to make men whole. "Too much talk." That was the answer of a Scottish divine's son when asked how he liked his first visit to church.

But more. For Jesus did more. Jesus served people in a practical way, but He didn't stop there. Beyond filling their empty stomachs with bread He filled their empty lives with meaning. Beyond giving them the Golden Rule He forgave them for breaking the Golden Rule. The ministry our Lord committed to the church we call evangelism. It means to present Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit that men should come to put their trust in Him and to accept Him as their Savior and serve Him as their Lord in the fellowship of the church. Perhaps in our time we need to offer our products in different order. Instead of selling the church in the hope that, once inside, people will buy the Gospel, we might try to sell the Gospel in the certainty that once it takes possession it is the power of God that will draw people to His church.

The great question before us is: Will we ring it? You know, out in Philadelphia there's a crack in the Liberty Bell; it doesn't ring anymore. Is that the way it is with us? Our song isn't sung? Our bell isn't ringing? Is it because we spend all our time diagnosing the sickness of the church and prescribing the remedy? Is it because we spend all our time trying to "shore up" this Lord who really doesn't need our help? Is it because we have fallen victim to overintellectualizing the faith? Is it because all our time is spent clarifying our dogmatic positions? Have you ever read of the philosopher who was so busy proving the existence of God he forgot to say his prayers? Is it because we are so intent on being as straight as an arrow theologically we have become empty as a gun barrel spiritually? So often it has been that fundamental and orthodox Christians became so severe in condemning false doctrine, gnashing their teeth at every sniff of heresy, that they end up without love. The same Paul who wrote: "Though an angel from heaven preach any other Gospel, let him be accursed," also wrote the love chapter of Corinthians. "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." Do we need to hear Paul scold us as he did the Corinthians? "You should be ashamed of yourselves," he thundered in effect. "Have you no decency that you bring the faith into disrepute by your disgusting behavior? You have made Christianity the laughingstock of the world." Is it because there are efforts not to bring in, but efforts to cast out? Is it because we are unconcerned about righting wrongs? Is it because there's so little shouting about the One who has been given a name above every name?

Perhaps then we need to remind ourselves that this text was really addressed to a concrete case of disunity in the church. Evidently in this church that Paul loved there were a few clashes of human temperament that spoiled the harmony in the household of God. It troubled Paul; he expected it of some of his other churches, but he had thought better of the Philippians. That was one of the main reasons for writing this letter which has been preserved in the New Testament. "I beseech you, Euodias and Syntyche, to agree in the Lord". What the trouble

was we don't know, but Paul treated it seriously. In fact we marvel that this very human dispute in this single small congregation should have drawn from the apostle's pen one of the finest passages about the Lordship of Christ.

If you read this letter carefully, you'll notice that Paul puts his finger on three of the causes which brought about this difference between Christians. He talks of rivalry. He talks of personal vanity. He talks of self-interest. And what is the answer to these persistent and very human causes of disunity even among us today? Simply to repent of them? That should be the answer. As Paul admonishes: "Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others." This is precisely what we're not able to do. Rivalry, personal vanity, and self-interest are the sins of our unredeemed human nature. To save us from these crimes, He had to die on the cross.

Our common life in Christ is the theme of this letter. Paul is talking about Christ, the risen and ever-present Savior and Lord. For Paul Christ is a spiritual climate in which the Christian can live and achieve a spiritual health and strength he would not otherwise achieve. That's why he addressed to his readers one of the great theological passages about Jesus Christ. We so often quote it out of context, so often analyze its theology and lift it into the language of prayer, forgetting that like the lofty 13th chapter of Corinthians it was intended in the first instance to settle an ordinary dispute among ordinary Christians.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Paul is saying that if the church lives consciously in Christ it will share the characteristics of Christ's life. And in so doing it will find the secret of its own unity. You know the great characteristic of Christ's life — humility. It showed in His servanthood, obedience, self-renunciation. "Our common life in Christ." Does that describe us? It can if Jesus Christ is Lord, if these are the great characteristics people can see in us. Then we can ring the bell.

A professor once startled his class with a prayer that began, "O God, we do not come into Thy presence." Then after a pause he added, "For we are never anywhere else." And so we meet here in this Synod in the presence of the risen Christ. Whether we recognize His presence or not, He is here now and He always will be. If we realize His presence, then perhaps we can become together the people who say, "Jesus is Lord," and of whom it is said: "See how they love each other." Then we will be like the early Christians, who were led by the Spirit of God, so united in love that the Spirit of God — so united in love that the Spirit could work in them and through them with a minimum of hindrance. No wonder their enemies could say with tears of rage in their eyes, "These men have turned the world upside down!"

They found the Holy Spirit has a way of short-circuiting human problems. Many issues were never allowed to arise, because these early Christians were led by the Spirit to the main task of bringing people to Christ and were not permitted to enjoy fascinating side-tracks.

One can hardly avoid observing that since God's Holy Spirit cannot conceivably have changed one iota through the centuries He is perfectly prepared by an inflow of love, wisdom, and understanding to short-circuit our own many problems today. So together let's cast down, as it were, the strong insulations so powerfully built up to keep the Spirit out. Then right here a new Pentecost could quickly sweep away our differences to the limbo where they belong.

Let's live in the presence of Jesus Christ as Lord.

Have you ever drilled a hole in a record? Just a half inch off center. What terrible music that makes! Let's plug into the Spirit and be centered in Christ. Don't cast out. Bring in.

When our Lord wished to teach His disciples a special lesson, He would call a child, place the little one in front of them, and forcefully bring the message. He uses them today too. At Christmastime we listen to our kindergartners sing:

Ring the bells! ring the bells!
Let the whole world know
Christ was born in Bethlehem
Many years ago,

Born to die that man might live,
Came to earth new life to give.
So let's ring the bells, ring the bells,
Let the whole world know
Christ the Savior lives today
As He did so long ago.

Amen.

VICE-PRESIDENT AUGUST BERNTHAL

BIBLE STUDY AND ISSUE DISCUSSION

In lieu of the traditional convention essay, each delegate was assigned to a small group for Bible study on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

Topics for these studies:

Monday — Make Them Disciples of the Lord
Matthew 28:16-20

Tuesday — Follow the Teaching of the Lord
2 Timothy 3:10-17

Wednesday — Help One Another to be the People of the Lord
Colossians 3:12-17

Thursday — The Lord Leads
Acts 15:22-34

The plans called for the latter part of each morning's

small group session to be devoted to a discussion of issues involved in the daily emphasis.

The daily emphases were:

Saturday and Sunday: Evangelism

Monday: Missions

Tuesday: Theology and Church Relations

Wednesday: Education

Thursday: Constitution and Administration

(No small group sessions were scheduled for Friday)

A Bible study leader and a facilitator were appointed for each group.

These small group sessions were scheduled to be held from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Memorial Address

Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied unto you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The text chosen for guidance here at this time is recorded in St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy, chapter 1, verse 17: "To the eternal King, immortal and invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen!"

Each convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod sets aside some time to reflect on the earthly departure of some of the valued professional workers in congregations, schools, and agencies of all kinds. This convention is no exception. So tonight we remember in humble gratitude the faithful service rendered by the workers who departed this life during the past two years.

In many cases, if not all, the success of the workers was possible because of the full support granted by members of the workers' families. At times it may have appeared as though no success attended the labors of our loved departed co-workers as congregations remained small, schools didn't seem to flourish, and in some other areas visible results simply didn't appear. Never mind! God knows why He led one person to this place and another to that one. God knew what He wished to accomplish. And God's wish was fulfilled whatever it was. And then when all His wishes regarding their work were accomplished, He said to them: "It is enough now. Come home, inherit your reward." How sweet is the word of Jesus applied to them: "Whoever confesses Me before men, him will I also confess before My Father who is in heaven." Some of these were at the peak of their ability to serve; some had outstanding talents; all had their special gifts from God. The Synod members served by these persons express their gratitude to God in the words of Paul: "To the eternal King, immortal and invisible, the only God, to Him be honor and glory forever and ever!"

In this connection we should not forget the many faithful servants among the laypersons of the Synod who served faithfully in the congregations and in special areas of service in the Synod's mission whom our gracious Lord called to Himself these past two years. To all the bereaved, for their comfort and for ours, we say in the words of St. Paul according to *Good News for Modern Man*: "Brothers, we want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again; so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have died believing in Him. This is the Lord's teaching that we tell you: We who are alive on the day the Lord comes will not go ahead of those who have died. There will be the shout of command, the archangel's voice, the sound of God's trumpet, and the Lord Himself will come down from heaven. Those who have died believing in Christ will rise to life first; then we who are living at that time will all be gathered up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. So then, cheer each other up with these words."

To our gracious God be honor and glory for all this.

Now let us return to our text. Are there some here who wonder whether the words of our text are properly used to give direction to this presentation? I think everyone always has the right to inquire as to how God's Word is applied. Let us quickly look at the connection. The words of the text are Paul's words to Timothy, whom he had instructed to stay in Ephesus. He said there's work to be done; men have lost their way; they teach falsely; they speak and act contrary to the true teaching—stop them! This true teaching is found in the Gospel that was entrusted to me to announce, the Good News from the glorious and blessed God. Then the apostle continued in a statement of gratitude to God in which our departed fellow servants would join if they were with us. And I am confident that we may assume the same of those whom we tonight gave special recognition for their service. I am just as confident that the members of the organizations and agencies whose representatives we heard tonight would join in Paul's expression. I am persuaded all of us would. I shall sketch it for you now. He said: "I thank Jesus for giving me strength to work; for considering me worthy to serve even though I persecuted and insulted Him; for God's mercy while I was still an unbeliever; for the outpouring of God's abundant grace; for the gift of faith and love 'which are ours in union with Christ Jesus'; for Christ's coming into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst'; for God's mercy upon me, Paul, so that Jesus might show His full patience on me as an example for all who would later believe unto eternal life." Then comes this great doxology: "To the eternal King, immortal and invisible, the only God, to Him be honor and glory forever and ever!"

I trust that the loved ones, our fellow servants in Christ who have gone on before us in the past years, were of this mind and conviction. I do not question that all of us here tonight, as we reflect upon the miracles God has worked for us in our own lives to bring us to Himself, are also of this conviction.

I cannot refrain from saying that I feel that all of those who have gone on would say: Thank God for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and for God's blessings on it for so many years. I can almost hear them saying, as with one voice: "Members of the Synod, look at the desperate needs of the world of sinful people; consider the countless thousands of persons on the road to certain perdition; think of how God's love was extended to all the world in Christ Jesus; look at Jesus on the cross and the blood flowing from His wounds for the lost ones and for their salvation; hear his plea: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do'; listen to His, 'Truly, I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.'" Can't you hear them saying, "Brothers and sisters, deal lovingly in the efforts at restoring peace and harmony in the Synod, and forgetting technicalities and

legal rights, take no drastic action that might further polarize or even fragmentize the Christian church and thus add to the scandal already prominent because of the division in Christendom"? Can't you hear them saying, "Brothers and sisters, talk to one another, discuss the true meaning of God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions. It doesn't matter how long this takes. We agree with the laypersons and parish pastors speaking to the recent theological convocation in the statement of the desire that nothing be done at this convention that would undo what was done at the convocation?"

Holding fast to the profession of our faith and honor-

ing the consciences of all our fellow Christians in the Synod, let us listen to them and following Jesus' loving "Come to Me," say: "Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

"O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us."

"O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us."

"O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen."

DR. OLIVER R. HARMS

Address of the President of The American Lutheran Church

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:

The people of The American Lutheran Church greet you in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The American Lutheran Church is glad for fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church in America. We are glad for the many ways our Lord has linked us together in the life and mission of His church. We are glad for the unity of faith that has led thousands of our mobile members to find their church home in the LCMS just as thousands of Missouri Synod people have found their church homes with us.

We have anguished with you in these recent years. Concern for you has been widened at every ALC gathering I have attended these past two years. We have longed for the reconciling word that would enable The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to move its great strength more fully into the central mission tasks of the church. You have been in the prayers of millions of ALC people again and again.

We in the ALC believe that God has prepared His Lutheran churches for this day. We believe the tasks He has set before us demand our individual, unfettered faith, strength, and enthusiasm. The days ahead call for the best efforts we Lutherans can put together. We believe it imperative that we march together in accepting God's challenge for this day.

Let me briefly spotlight a few of the central tasks God has set before us. These are fronts on which the ALC believes God wants us to be active in the years ahead. We intend to be there. We hope and pray we will be marching with all Lutherans in America as we go to our posts.

We intend to be devoted to evangelical outreach. Our current United Mission Appeal declares the ALC's intent to be constant, concerned Gospel proclaimers. We believe this is the generation in which Lutheran congregations in the U.S. must prove themselves as carriers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people. Our congregations cannot stay strong, in most instances, as ethnic preservers, German and Scandinavian background ghettos. God has not given us His Christ to keep culture pockets



Dr. David Preus, President of the ALC

intact. Neither can we be God's outreaching witnesses if we are preoccupied with inspecting ourselves for faults. The Lutheran emphasis on God's grace needs to be heard, and it needs to be seen as applied in our own lives. This is the day for outspoken, aggressive, congregational oriented, catechetically sound Lutheran Christian evangelism. Our ALC Church Council just two weeks ago declared that our primary ALC emphasis for the days ahead will be "evangelical outreach." That is where we are headed. We ask you to join us.

We intend to be devoted to "doing justice." God's Word calls us to be diligent in helping create a just human society where half the people do not have to go to bed hungry tonight and where half the people do not have to live under tyranny. God calls us in the churches to keep battling the demon of racism no matter how weary of the battle the rest of the society becomes. God calls us to hear the cry of all oppressed people and help free all from hunger, poverty, and tyranny as well as from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Lutherans have been justifiably accused of sitting quietly by while injustice occurs unchallenged. We hear God's Word that calls us to "do justice." We intend to plug away at it. That is where we are headed. We ask you to join us.

We intend to be devoted to building community. God came to put us humans together. Build, strengthen, encourage, love—these are Biblical charges to put ourselves together. Yet we are flying apart in a frightening way. Families, congregations, communities, church bodies, and nations become critical, cantankerous, fault finding, angry, and divisive. Who rallies the families to new loyalty and life if not the churches? Who will stay and battle for community health when it is easier to run away to new places of privilege if not the people of God? We have the greatest opportunity of any people in the land to show by our actions what it means to be a people together. We in the ALC expect to work faithfully at building community. That is where we are headed. We ask you to join us.

We intend to be devoted to Lutheran cooperation. We believe in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. and its potential for vital joint ministry. We believe there are many more things the LCMS, LCA, and ALC can do more effectively together. We believe that to be true of the Lutheran World Federation as well. We intend to expand the areas of Lutheran cooperation. That is where we are headed. We ask you to join us.

We intend to be devoted to our Lutheran heritage. We will not use that devotion as a defense mechanism to fend off other Christians but as a genuine contribution to catholic Christianity. We intend to live by the grace of God. We intend to faithfully, joyfully bear witness to the Gospel according to the Word of God as confessed in the Ecumenical Creeds and the Lutheran Confessions. That is where we are headed. We ask you to join us.

One final word. We welcome ongoing theological discussions with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. There are a few presuppositions with which we operate. We want to be clear with you so that our discussions may be fruitful.

We believe that God has blessed The American Lutheran Church with a deep and rich Evangelical Lutheran heritage. We believe ourselves as theologically blessed and capable as any other American Lutheran church. As a result we expect to contribute theologically to you just as we expect you to contribute to us. We expect you to listen and learn from us just as we expect to listen and learn from you. We do not believe God has uniquely cast any one church body in a teaching role. We think it essential that we be teachers and learners together.

We do not share identical histories. We do not, therefore, expect you to be agitated and distressed by all matters that agitate and distress us in the ALC. Neither do we expect you to demand that we match your concern for some of the matters that agitate and distress you. We will strive to respect your history without reliving it. We ask you to do the same with us.

We look forward to fruitful theological discussions in our churches.

The people of The American Lutheran Church unhesitatingly declare their love for the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We believe the future of our two churches, as well as the LCA, is together. God grant it may be so.

DR. DAVID PREUS

Address of the President of the Lutheran Church in America

PRESIDENT PREUS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST:

I greet you with the words of the apostle Paul to the Galatians:

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father; to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (Gal. 1:3-5 RSV)

Galatians occurs to me because persons from the Missouri Synod have cited it so often in my hearing, and with good effect, to emphasize the centrality of the Gospel for Christian thought and life. The need for clarity about a Christ-centered faith is as great today as ever. The shifts in social and religious currents could divert us.

Reviewing the recent experience of the church, the chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches drew a parallel with Christ's ministry to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. As Christ had joined the disciples, the church in the nineteen-sixties had attempted to walk with people. Although the church had always been a pilgrim fellowship where Christ joined people in the joys and sorrows of earthly life, the last decade was marked by the church's willingness to face

new issues and participate in new struggles. The change that came in the nineteen-seventies has been like the point in the conversation on the Emmaus road when Christ, "beginning with Moses and all the prophets, interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." There is an upsurge in interest in the Scriptures and in relationship with God.

Of course the church had not given up the interpretation of Scripture in the earlier decade, nor should the church give up its concern for the earthly welfare of people in the present decade. There has been a shift in emphasis, however, partly because a few were so engrossed by the current human crises as to find little time for the ancient divine revelation, but more because many were so limited by past experiences as to need far more study of Scripture in order to perceive its meaning in new circumstances.

It is sad to note how both activities have proved divisive for the church. In the sixties some people withdrew from the church because it was too radical, while others withdrew because the church was not radical enough. Some berated the church for not identifying with the poor and oppressed, while others felt the church was neglecting the needs of its own members. Some



Dr. Robert Marshall, President of the LCA

wanted the church to attack the use of American power overseas, but others wanted the church to denounce overseas Marxist governments for the misuse of power. Now, in the seventies, the concern for the interpretation of Scripture threatens to be divisive. We know now that social concerns are not the only source of controversy. When we focus on treasures which belong uniquely to the church, we can also provoke debate and disturbance. So it was for the Galatians.

St. Paul warned the Galatians against letting another gospel take the place of the true Gospel. In the Lutheran Church in America we have known such a danger from letting the scientific learning about Scripture overshadow the proclamation of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. We have not always made clear in practice where we have stood in faith. We have needed correction at times, and fellow Lutherans have been a help. On the other hand, I must be honest enough to admit that many in the LCA believe the Missouri Synod is in an equal danger on the other side. This explains some of the statements from people in the LCA, statements that perturb some of you. To them there seems to be an emphasis on the words of Scripture that detracts from the living Word of God.

There are two kinds of human logic at work. One develops when people feel the necessity to give naturalistic explanations for miracle stories in order to make the Scriptures plausible. The other system leads to considering the miracles necessary to prove Christ is divine. Both are wrong. The former forgets that Christ is experienced in faith so unique that we can never understand or explain all the wonder of life in Him. The latter ignores that all religions have miracle stories and that only by faith, which is the gift of God, are we able to confess Christ's inscrutable power and glory in the revelation events. One system of logic moves toward absolutizing the scientific systems of our time. Science should not become an absolute. Its systems are helpful exactly because they are always changing under the impact of new

data. They are relative to the current state of learning. The other system of logic attempts to escape human relativism by pushing science as far away from the life of faith as possible. It ends up treating words as though they were as precious or more precious than human lives and as absolute as God Himself. The resulting conviction can interfere with pastoral counseling of those with venturesome questions, limit interchurch relations, and leave little freedom for the Spirit of God.

Neither of these systems of logic is right for us as Lutherans. Instead Lutherans have traditionally said that the Lutheran Confessions are true witnesses to the Scripture. Out of the mass of material in Scripture, the Confessions succinctly present the essentials for the dogma of the church. Some parts of Scripture have a pertinence at one time that they do not possess at another time, as St. Paul illustrated in his Letter to the Galatians when he referred to some Old Testament laws. The Confessions have grasped and set forth the essentials, especially in the Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession, but also in the other documents of the Book of Concord. The Confessions have a history and use words too, but words in the service of a living confession. The revelation of God in Christ has a central significance not shared by other peripheral matters. Around the central dogmas there can be much theological exploration, much questing and questioning. There is room to study the historical setting of Scripture and the Confessions. There is reason to take seriously the words. But our imperfect human perception of the history or the words should not be absolutized. If we will allow the Gospel proclamation its proper distinctive status and recognize all else is subordinate, there can be Lutheran unity.

There may be differences between the LCMS and the LCA on these matters. There are, indeed, differences within each of our church bodies. Yet all of us accept the canonical Scriptures as the only norm for the faith and life of the church. And all of us approach that norm as Lutherans by declaring the Lutheran Confessions are true witnesses to the Gospel. I hope these basic statements of faith will hold firm, uneroded by the attacks of our time. I hope the true Gospel will move us to confess our Lord Jesus Christ together. I hope the true confession can be the basis of building together so the world may see our unity in Christ.

We in the LCA are grateful for the unity there is among Lutherans in this troubled world. Personal associations have continued to grow as cooperation has developed in local programs, in regional planning, and in national meetings. I treasure the friendship with President Preus and other leaders of the Missouri Synod. To exchange experiences and viewpoints, to join in promoting Christian service, to pray together—these are precious expressions of Christian fellowship, even though most of you cannot in good conscience join us in that greatest experience of fellowship at the altar.

Without cooperation in various agencies we Lutherans would have been less effective than we are in meeting the needs of dislocated and starving people. Fortunately we have been quite unified in offering bread to

people even though we have been less unified in offering them the Bread of Life.

We in the LCA continue to hope that the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. will serve to expand the unity in mission. While the Missouri Synod has found it necessary or desirable to restrict its cooperation in some activities, and this has shaken our confidence and made us cautious about entering any new cooperative work, I hope ensuing events will quickly remedy both circumstances.

We particularly treasure the study we do with you in the Division of Theological Studies. While we know your continuing desire for discussions with us outside the Council, we do not believe anything can be accomplished by merely adding to the quantity of meetings and discussions. Rather we fear that working outside the Council will only undercut the commitment each of us has to working within the Council. The present study on the "Role of Dogma and Theology in the Light of the Unity

of the Church" is beamed at the very issue that appears to divide Lutheranism today. We are pursuing that together, with the hope and prayer and effort to define the Gospel as St. Paul did in Galatians and Romans.

It is important to remember how Christ on the road to Emmaus interpreted the Scripture with a single emphasis, namely, "the things concerning *Himself*." I believe all Scripture was inspired for that specific distinctive purpose. I believe Scripture does not err in showing the revelation of the true God in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. Remembering that this Gospel is the great treasure for all of us and that all of us must confess we carry God's treasure in earthen vessels, I conclude with the words of St. Paul at the end of the Letter to the Galatians: "Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen."

DR. ROBERT J. MARSHALL

Address of the General Secretary of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

There is a reality to our concept of church that is felt very keenly during a church convention. During my years of service as a staff officer of the Lutheran Church in America I was deeply involved in the planning for and fulfillment of conventions. I recognize with you the excitement as well as the responsibility that comes from the assembling of a multitude of delegates from the congregations that form a church body.

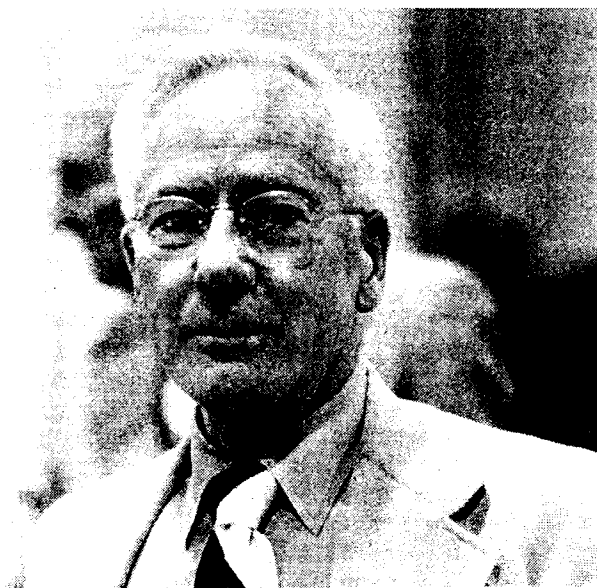
As you know, I am new to my tasks as General Secretary of your Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., having been in office for less than a year. This occasion marks not only my first visit to one of your conventions but my first appearance before you as your servant in our collective Lutheran endeavor.

Many of you in this audience are regular participants and colleagues with us in the Lutheran Council, whether as officers, representatives to our annual meeting, standing committee members, or members of our Lutheran Council staff. I ask you not to think of the Lutheran Council in a "we-they" context. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is an integral part of our inter-Lutheran organization, and the Lutheran Council is thus a part of the Missouri Synod.

Today I want to say three things: (1) that the Lutheran Council is responsive to your concerns; (2) that it is flexible to change; and (3) that it is dedicated to renewal and service. Your convention theme is indeed the foundation for, and the pretext of, all of our work, and we, throughout the Lutheran family in this country, raise our voices with yours in proclaiming those wonderful words of your convention theme.

1. The Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. Is Responsive to Your Concerns

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod helped bring our Lutheran Council into being in 1967. You all know that for many years prior to that, the American Lu-



Dr. George Harkins, General Secretary of the LCUSA

theran Church and the Lutheran Church in America (and their antecedent organizations) had worked together in the former National Lutheran Council. It is significant to recall that the ALC and the LCA were willing to scrap their entire National Lutheran Council structure when your convention decided in 1965 that it was ready to enter into cooperative work with these other Lutheran church bodies. This meant a fresh start, and everybody rejoiced that a new threshold of Lutheran cooperation had been reached; there was great excitement at the promise that lay ahead.

I believe that the Lutheran Council is fulfilling the vision that you and your fellow Lutherans in America had for it. At every point The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has brought its considerable influence to

bear to shape the agency into an effective tool to enhance your witness and your ministry. Leaders of your church sit on the highest policy panels and are present on every standing committee. Your budget dollars help pay for the many services which the Lutheran Council carries out for its member church bodies.

Not only has the Council developed and established structures and programs tailored to your concerns, but more recently we have been responsive to the special concerns within your church body that have caused you to pull back from complete participation in some of our cooperative work. This has required serious adjustment on the part of all of us who have program responsibilities in the agency.

I would not be honest with you if I said that your action did not adversely affect the other two church bodies and the Council itself. It did. The necessary adjustment has been difficult, but we have followed through and have made them, both in program and in personnel, in order to accommodate your programmatic judgments and financial circumstances. I say this because The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod helped to create and shape the Council and is continually integral to its being. The Council has no life apart from that given to it by the church bodies.

Your partnership with The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America is surviving this particular strain, but we will need to work through the implications of the meaning of partnership as it applies to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod commitment and posture toward our common agency in the immediate future.

None of your colleagues in the cooperative sphere is in a position to quarrel with or object to the priorities that have been decided upon as a result of your evaluations. Some of the programs which your representatives deemed less useful or less important than others are to be continued, but now will be supported only by The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America. Some of the activities involve virtually the totality of Lutheranism on the American scene as it is represented to government and to the public at large through such offices as public affairs and government relations, and communication and interpretation. In the minds of many of our publics, Lutheranism is not as divisible as some of us attempt to make it. I hope that you will not close the doors to reconsideration of your participation in some of these important collective approaches to our society.

2. The Lutheran Council Is Flexible to Change

You should know that the Lutheran Council has not been so rigidly organized that flexibility has been precluded. As a matter of fact, a thorough study of the structure and function of the agency was undertaken by the three church bodies several years ago, and major reorganizations and adjustments were made to ensure even greater flexibility of operation.

In our Division of Service to Military Personnel a very creative new staffing pattern was placed in operation, providing that one staff person for each of our church bodies is to serve both the Lutheran Council and

his own church body. This has been effectuated to the great satisfaction of all concerned. Integrity has been maintained, and considerable money has been saved.

At the specific request of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod a communication office was opened on the West Coast with the agreement of the other partners, and this office has served effectively both the regional and the national needs of Lutherans vis-à-vis media. We regret, however, that this has had to be one of the casualties of our financial retrenchment.

An exciting example of flexibility in meeting changing problems and opportunities is going on at this very moment. I refer to the massive program we are engaged in at the Lutheran Council in the resettlement into American communities of refugee families from Indochina.

At the end of May one of your Vice-Presidents, Dr. August Bernthal, and I were invited to the White House for a consultation on the refugee resettlement question. Dr. Bernthal is chairman of the standing committee for the Department of Immigration and Refugee Service and has given brilliant service in helping to establish creative and humane policies regarding our work among refugees. I was proud that day at the White House when it became clear in that setting that our Lutheran Council program was already operational and was among the leading voluntary agencies responding to an urgent human problem with which we as a nation were confronted.

Almost immediately teams of dedicated and competent resettlement experts were deployed to Camp Pendleton, California; Fort Chaffee, Arkansas; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; and Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. These representatives of yours were boldly jumping in to deal efficiently and lovingly with confusions and complexities of unbelievable proportions. Soon a control center was operating at our New York offices of the Lutheran Council to coordinate sponsorship offers coming from Lutheran congregations with those families who had been interviewed and processed at the camps. I am very proud to announce to you that 1,200 congregations have agreed to sponsor through the Council almost 6,000 Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees. I am also pleased to say that President Preus has already visited one of the resettlement camps, talked with some of the refugees, and encouraged our staff members there.

3. The Lutheran Council Is Dedicated to Renewal and Service

New problems and new opportunities will always face us. I pledge to you that the Lutheran Council, to the extent that its partners support it and maintain it, will always be dedicated to renewing its organizational life for greater, more effective, and more efficient service in the kingdom of God. There is so much that each of our Lutheran Church bodies, through its congregations and agencies, needs to do to minister to our troubled world. Lutherans can help one another. We have done so in the past through sharing of staff and programs, through ministry to special needs, through speaking with one voice where appropriate, through exploring Scriptural

Board of Control — Portland

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 1,070	
*Meranda, Zane Z. (Now)	602
Mueller, Martin C. (Now)	432
Rohrer, Ray (MT)	364
*Sandman, Richard J. (MT)	632

TEACHERS	
Ballots cast, 1,032	
*Ladendorf, Richard (Now)	656
Sharadin, Dolores (Now)	376

Board of Control — River Forest

PASTORS	
Ballots cast, 1,074	
Griffin, William H. (NI)	280
*Lutze, John E. (WY)	596
Wians, Herbert T. (EN)	198

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 1,030	
Fenker, Arthur M. (IN)	376
*Koeneman, Henry O. (NI)	654

TEACHERS	
Ballots cast, 1,029	
*Busch, Arthur H. (NI)	640
Hirsch, Ivan A. (IW)	389

Board of Control — St. Louis

PASTORS	
Ballots cast, 1,086	
Biel, Kurt W. (FG)	471
Buege, William A. (MO)	473
*Rehwaltdt, Edgar F. (MnS)	596
*Schmidt, Neil R. (ND)	603

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 1,077	
*Dissen, Walter C. (EN)	598
Hilgendorf, Walter A. (MO)	202
Roschke, Erwin M. (NI)	278

TEACHERS (2 years)	
Ballots cast, 1,035	
Kentel, Clifford B. D. (IN)	397
*Tormoehlen, Alger J. (MO)	638

TEACHERS (4 years)	
Ballots cast, 1,034	
*Bergman, Henry (MC)	599
Walther, John F. (CI)	435

Board of Control — St. Paul

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 1,055	
*Bartz, Harold (MnN)	631
Consoer, Leslie (IW)	358
*Degner, Lorenz (MnS)	608
Neumann, Wilfred F. (MnS)	434

TEACHERS	
Ballots cast, 1,049	
*Lohse, Arnold W. (MnS)	601
Rosenberg, Donald (NW)	448

Board of Control — Selma

PASTORS	
Ballots cast, 1,047	
Bodley, Simon Jr. (NI)	180
*Graebner, Charles L. (SO)	623
Pearcy, David L. (MDS)	244

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 1,030	
*Parker, Inez A. (Ea)	645
Scott, Floyd L. (SO)	385

TEACHERS

Ballots cast, 1,031	
Geihlsler, James (SO)	370
*McBride, Mary A. (SO)	661

Board of Control — Seward

SEWARD COUNTY

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 1,038	
Brauer, Gilbert (NEB)	347
Gerkenmeyer, Norman (NEB)	285
Kolterman, Donald C. (NEB)	178
*Krohn, David (NEB)	588
*Niemann, Walter W. (NEB)	571

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 994	
Doerr, Howard P. (NEB)	397
*Skov, Ralph H. (Co)	597

TEACHERS	
Ballots cast, 1,096	
*Chandler, F. William (NEB)	554
Garmatz, Robert W. (SC)	368
Wied, Alwin J. (Mc)	94

Board of Control — Springfield

PASTORS	
Ballots cast, 1,051	
*Fehl, William H. B. (Mo)	607
Hallerberg, Herbert W. (CI)	257
Hellman, Victor T. (SW)	260
*Niederbrach, Willard E. (In)	624
Yingling, Stanton A. (At)	301

LAYPERSONS (2 years)	
Ballots cast, 1,024	
Haluska, Lud A. (CI)	413
*Niedan, E. Dean (NEB)	611

LAYPERSONS (4 years)	
Ballots cast, 1,017	
Berryhill, Clinton E. (IE)	395
*Biesemeier, John D. (CI)	602
*Boucher, Earl (CI)	578
Hilst, Henry Jr. (CI)	385

TEACHERS	
Ballots cast, 987	
*Boldt, H. James (SW)	630
Bultemeyer, Richard L. (Mc)	357

Board of Control — Winfield

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 1,030	
*Neff, Donald (KS)	620
Peter, Marilyn (NEB)	418
Scherer, Richard D. (KS)	417
*Wiperman, A. H. (KS)	560

Board of Control — Argentina

LAYPERSONS	
Ballots cast, 875	
*Rein, David (Argentina)	516
Sturtz, Hugo (Argentina)	359

Board of Control — Porto Alegre, Brazil

PASTORS	
Ballots cast, 986	
Horsch, Hans (Brazil)	373
*Ott, Norberto C. (Brazil)	598

LAYPERSONS (2 yr.)	
Ballots cast, 971	
Allmann, Amandio (Brazil)	373
*Engel, Johannes (Brazil)	598

truth through theological dialogs, through combining our specialized approaches to chaplaincy work, ministry among the military, American Indian minority affairs, overseas volunteer activities, work with youth agencies, planning regional cooperation in missions, welfare entities, and campus ministry and other activities.

More can be done when we work together. We have only started in our cooperative adventure on this continent, and there are many needs and opportunities ahead.

We should let nothing stop us from pursuing the tasks that are required of us as obedient disciples of Him whom we praise through your convention theme when we say that Jesus Christ is Lord.

It gives me joy to come before you as a colleague, a friend, a fellow Lutheran, and a partner with you in this greatest of all callings. Thank you.

DR. GEORGE HARKINS

Statement by Rev. Emil Jaech

(Representing several District Presidents after adoption of Res. 5-02A. Printed in the PROCEEDINGS by convention resolution.)

PRESIDENT PREUS,
BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST:

I am moved to underscore those familiar words—*brothers and sisters in Christ*. In these tense, emotion-packed, perhaps anger-filled moments some may feel either like throwing in the towel and leaving or like saying, "Good riddance!" But our Lord, who bought both you and me at so great a price, has by His Spirit called all of us by the Gospel out of darkness into light. He has called us to be brothers and sisters together in His one family. In His name, my brothers and sisters, we eight District Presidents wish to give this response:

The passage today of Resolution 5-02 has made it appropriate and necessary for the eight District Presidents who are the objects of that resolution to respond to the convention and to the entire Synod.

We have stated repeatedly, individually, and corporately our reasons for ordaining, or consenting to the ordination of, graduates of Concordia Seminary-in-Exile who have received proper calls from congregations or calling agencies in our Districts. We will not repeat those reasons now. But we take this opportunity to inform you and the church of our common and unanimous response, of our continuing struggle for freedom of conscience under the Gospel, and of our plans for the future.

With regret we say that we cannot agree with your action. We are disappointed that we have been unable to convince you of the appropriateness of our stand. We had hoped and prayed that you would make a different judgment. Your decision puts not only the eight of us but all the officers of the Synod and its Districts and all the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in serious jeopardy. You have not recognized the rights of congregations nor the legitimate claims of conscience. This is a serious breach of the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and the synodical Constitution. We believe that your actions stem from sincere motives but that your judgment in this instance is wrong. Your action will only cause further division in the Synod at a time when healing is most necessary.

At the same time we are heartened by the approval given to our actions by a substantial minority of the convention delegates. We ask all of you to join us now in the task of restoring throughout the Synod the evangeli-

cal style of leadership and life together that has characterized most of her history.

We eight agree that the final judgment concerning our continuing service to the church as District Presidents rests with the congregations of our Districts which elected us to office. We intend to take our case to them. If they agree with your judgment, we will accept that decision. But they must ultimately decide this issue. Action by a synodical convention providing for the removal of District Presidents is unprecedented and unheard of among us and represents a threat to the rights guaranteed to all of our congregations by Article VII of the synodical Constitution.

Even the smallest congregation in the Synod is possessed of an authority higher than that of the most impressive church assembly, for all authority is derived from the Word of God. Where the Gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments administered, there is the Word of God. There is the presence of the risen Christ promised to even the most humble community gathered around Bible, the water of Baptism, the Word of forgiveness, the bread and wine of divine reconciliation. No official, no resolution, no bylaw can interfere with the assertion of that promise, of that presence, of that authority. That is what is at stake in the position we are taking today.

No one has demonstrated that we have acted contrary to the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod in the matter of ordaining and receiving Seminex graduates into our Districts. No threat of removal from office has persuaded us to change our position. We intend to continue our present practice, which we believe is in full accord with the Scriptural and confessional standards to which we voluntarily bound ourselves by our ordination vows and by the promises made when we accepted the Presidencies of our Districts. We intend to continue as Presidents of our Districts unless and until our Districts vote to replace us. Long ago it was determined that our election was a divine call. Whether we have violated that call is a decision that may be made only by those who extended the call.

We have not advocated anarchy in the Synod nor defended purely personal rights, as some have wrongly charged. We have advocated Christian freedom in all matters not commanded or forbidden by the Word of God.

We have defended and will continue to defend the precious rights guaranteed to all congregations by our Synod's Constitution. Therefore we reject the charge that we have caused divisions or given offense. We have acted, and by God's grace intend to continue to act, in the best interests of Christ's holy church and of the Synod to which we are bound by lifelong ties of affection and esteem. We are convinced that our action is vindicated by the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are also convinced that our position is neither new nor unique in Missouri Synod history. We are walking in the spirit of Martin Luther, C. F. W. Walther, and Francis Pieper. They viewed the church not as an ecclesiastical government exercising coercive powers over its congregations but as the instrument of the Holy Spirit for carrying out the commission of our Lord to evangelize the peoples of the world.

Surely this strife-torn, divided world hungers more than ever for the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. A church body united under Scripture and the Confessions can be a powerful witness to the world and can serve it as God's own agent of reconciliation. But a church body that seeks to enforce unanimity by convention resolutions will lose both its Lutheran character and its Spirit-given unity. Then a strife-torn world would merely be

confronted by a strife-torn church, to the confusion of both and to the confounding of the church's mission.

We urge you to return to the position of our synodical fathers and of the Lutheran confessors, who placed great confidence in the gathered people of God in the local congregation. We are convinced that their example, based on the New Testament concept of the church, is a safe one to follow. This we have endeavored to do. This we are conscience bound to continue to do. We pray that you will allow this position to be maintained within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. If not, you will have effectively excluded not only eight of us but very likely hundreds of congregations, hundreds of pastors and teachers, and thousands of members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from your fellowship. Such severing of the fellowship will not be by our choice but by your decision. We commend ourselves and all of you to the mercy of God.

REV. HERMAN R. FRINCKE, Eastern District

REV. HAROLD L. HECHT, English District

REV. PAUL E. JACOBS, California and Nevada District

REV. EMIL G. JAECH, Northwest District

REV. WALDEMAR E. MEYER, Colorado District

REV. HERMAN NEUNABER, Southern Illinois District

REV. RUDOLPH P. F. RESSMEYER, Atlantic District

REV. ROBERT J. RIEDEL, New England District

RESOLUTIONS

1. EVANGELISM

To Participate in Convention Evangelism Activities

RESOLUTION 1-01

Report 1-01, IV, 3 (CW, p. 5)

WHEREAS, Resolution 8-01 of the 1973 synodical convention encouraged "the President of the Synod and others responsible for the planning of the 1975 synodical convention to select and implement an evangelism theme for that convention"; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism appointed an ad hoc committee which met April 4-5, 1974, in Los Angeles in order to plan and recommend ways to implement this resolution; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank and praise God for leading and inspiring us to recognize the high priority of the Great Commission: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15) and for His promise, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me" (Acts 1:8); and be it further

Resolved, That we commend the people responsible for the convention evangelism format, namely, the Board for Evangelism and the ad hoc committee which implemented the program; and be it finally

Resolved, That we invite all delegates to participate fully in the Bible study groups and evangelistic activities, and to utilize the promised strength of the Holy Spirit to go forth to witness.

Action: Adopted (2).

To Affirm a Lutheran Understanding of Evangelism

RESOLUTION 1-02A

(Replacing Res. 1-02)

Report 1-01; Overtures 1-05, 1-08—1-12 (CW, pp. 1-13); N.O. Res. 8-05, 8-06 (CW, p. 447)

WHEREAS, Moralistic and sectarian evangelistic enterprises are proliferating in American society and culture, some of which have a net effect of creating a civil and cultural religion in the name of Christ, with the result that Christ and culture tend to be equated; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran principle is that Christ and culture are to be kept distinct (Christians are "in" but not "of" the world) in order that God the Holy Spirit, who alone creates faith through His Word, may speak His word of judgment and grace both upon the church and upon the culture, particularly when the culture endorses moralism and sectarianism parading in the name of Christ; and

WHEREAS, There seems to be a hesitancy on the part of many Lutherans to engage in evangelistic activity; and



A Saturday afternoon evangelism call

WHEREAS, There appears to be confusion in the minds of many Lutherans about evangelism; some associating evangelism with high-pressure salesmanship, or ulterior methods bordering on manipulation, or presenting a shallow moralism in the place of Christ, or endeavoring to quiet one's own unbelief and anxieties by getting others to join one's own ideology; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod here in convention affirm a Lutheran understanding of evangelism, to wit, that

1. Evangelism, in its general sense, is *sharing the Gospel* of Jesus Christ. Such sharing occurs in whatever form and with whatever form and with whatever means or methods may be most relevant for the particular situation of serving the total need of mankind, whom Christ has redeemed. In a more particular sense, evangelism has special reference to sharing the Gospel with those who do not yet confess "Jesus Christ is Lord," to the end that they, too, may enjoy with us all the benefits of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Evangelism, in the particular sense, is always a natural extension of evangelism in the general sense. Thus, evangelism, in both senses, is as much the due and responsible service to Christ of each baptized Christian as it is the due and responsible service of those who minister in Word and Sacrament or of the organized agencies of District and the Synod.

3. Evangelism on the part of each baptized Christian will take place naturally and appropriately in whatever opportune time and with whatever gifts the Lord of the church has bestowed upon the baptized individual. However, inasmuch as the Spirit-endowed gifts for evangelism can grow, be nurtured, developed, and enhanced through training, each pastor will want to equip God's people for evangelism, and each congregation will provide suitable and adequate opportunities and methods for training in evangelism. In addition, each pastor will want to alert his members to reject any evangelistic method or technique which has the effect of binding people under a yoke of law, or solidifying people in fear and guilt, mixing Law and Gospel, or taking no account of the particular human situation of the individual who is to be "evangelized."

4. Evangelism on the part of the congregation will utilize a variety of means, methods, and agencies for the purpose of sharing the Gospel with one another, being particularly aware that we are called to evangelize people of all ethnic origins and cultural traditions.

5. Evangelism has as its goal the conversion of the whole world to the confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord." Thus, each Lutheran congregation will support the evangelism efforts of District and the Synod. However, while supporting global evangelism, every Lutheran will remember that evangelism begins with each baptized Christian sharing the Gospel with the members of his own family, and with the person next door, in the same community, in the same place of occupation, in the same dormitory, hospital, or wherever the Lord of the church provides opportunity.

6. The motivation for all evangelism is the baptized Christian's Spirit-born compulsion to share the Gospel. However, because our sinful human nature is inclined to neglect witnessing or sharing the Gospel, the pastor ought to remind himself and his people to "do the work of an evangelist"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism of the Synod and of the Districts continue to study the Lutheran understanding of evangelism, continue to evaluate the evangelistic enterprises in society, notify pastors and congregations of evangelism materials acceptable for Lutheran use, and call attention to evangelistic materials and methods which are unsuitable for Lutheran use.

Action: Adopted as amended (2).

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 1-02 with Res. 1-02A. The phrase "with the members of his own family" in Point 5 was added by amendment. The assembly also removed "American" as a modifier of "moralism" and "society" in the fourth whereas and final resolved. Among several proposed amendments which were voted down was one which would have added to the second sentence of Point 5 the words "... and of any other agency of Christ's universal church which are carried out in keeping with these principles." A motion to refer the resolution back to the committee failed).

To Recommend Renewal Retreats

RESOLUTION 1-03

Report 1-01, V, Rec. 1 (CW, pp. 8-9)

WHEREAS, The 51st convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been designated as an evangelism convention to move the church boldly forward in its mission in humble obedience to the Lord of the church; and

WHEREAS, The mission "to make disciples of all nations" needs continual reaffirmation; and

WHEREAS, To accomplish its mission the church depends upon the Holy Spirit through the Gospel to educate, motivate, and equip its leadership; and

WHEREAS, In the face of declining church membership, backdoor losses of 52,618 in 1973, 40% of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations in 1973 confirming or baptizing one adult or less, it becomes increasingly important for pastors, other professional

church workers, and lay people to carry on enthusiastically the work of evangelism; and

WHEREAS, Evangelism is affected by the attitude of the person who is to do the evangelizing; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for better evangelism training; therefore be it

Resolved, That for the next biennium the Synod adopt as its major evangelism thrust Renewal Retreats for its professional church workers and their spouses and for congregational leaders and their spouses; and be it further

Resolved, That the retreats be several days in length, conducted in a retreat setting and using small-group discussion techniques with sufficient time for sharing, Bible study, reflection, and prayer; and be it further

Resolved, That each participant in the retreats be asked to evaluate his own personal mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to set personal goals, and to plan how he can help motivate and equip every member to share the Gospel; and be it further

Resolved, That at the retreats the District, circuit, and congregation each evaluate its evangelism activities and plan an aggressive program of outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That the goal be that all the professional church workers and congregational leaders, together with their spouses, experience a Renewal Retreat; and be it further

Resolved, That the following be the pattern of the retreats:

1. Regional Renewal Retreats (RRR)—six retreats for synodical officers and District leaders, conducted by the Board for Evangelism;

2. District Renewal Retreats (DRR) for District executives and circuit counselors, conducted by the District leaders who attended an RRR;

3. Circuit Renewal Retreats (CRR) for pastors and congregational lay leaders of each circuit, conducted by those who attended a DRR;

4. Parish Renewal Retreats (PRR), at least one for each congregation, conducted by those who attended a CRR; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors allocate \$65,000 for the Regional Retreats and materials for subsequent retreats; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Districts be asked to fund the District Renewal Retreats and that congregations be asked to fund the Circuit and the Parish Renewal Retreats.

Action: Adopted (4).

To Establish Evangelism Objectives at the District and Congregational Level

RESOLUTION 1-04

Report 1-01, III; V, Rec. 7 (CW, pp. 4-5, 10)

WHEREAS, The objectives of the Board for Evangelism

cover the same areas of evangelism that concern each District and each congregation of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District and congregational boards seek to establish objectives and develop programs in keeping with each of the following five specific objectives:

1. To deepen the theological understanding of evangelism;
2. To encourage effective and efficient organization for evangelism;
3. To motivate and train for personal witness;
4. To develop a more favorable climate for evangelism;
5. To develop specific strategies.

Action: Adopted (4).

To Stem Tide of Membership Losses

RESOLUTION 1-05

Report 1-01, IV, 13 (CW, p. 7)

WHEREAS, Backdoor losses of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for 1972 and 1973 were equivalent each year to 156 congregations with an average communicant membership of 334; and

WHEREAS, There is the danger of losing faith outside the fellowship of Christians; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage congregations carefully to maintain contact with members leaving the parish until they are transferred to another congregation, assisted by the synodical referral system for this purpose; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the Board for Evangelism to assist congregations in developing programs of assimilation for all incoming members (confirmands, transfers, et al.); and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage congregations to use the Scriptural approach to problems of membership, with the evangelical disciplinary procedures of Matt. 18:15ff. as necessary, but always in accord with the pastoral ministry of our Lord.

Action: Adopted (4).

To Adopt Bylaw Changes (Evangelism)

RESOLUTION 1-06

Report 1-01, V, Rec. 8; III (CW, pp. 10-11, 4-5)

WHEREAS, The present *Handbook* provisions for the Board for Evangelism are very brief and do not give the board sufficient detail as to its functions and duties and do not speak about the organization for evangelism in either the District or the congregation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention adopt the following *Handbook* changes:

PRESENT WORDING

8.43 Functions and Duties

The Board shall develop policies and provide programs of evangelism for use by individuals, congregations, circuits, and Districts.

PROPOSED WORDING

8.43 Functions and Duties

It is the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to convey, by word and life, the message that "in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself . . . we are ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:19-20). The Board shall assist individuals, congregations, circuits, and Districts of the Synod in every possible manner as they seek to carry out the commission of our Lord to be witnesses unto Him (Matt. 4:19; 28:19-20; Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:8; 20:24), so that a growing number of God's people share the Good News of God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ by what they say and do, both in structured programs and in life situations.

In carrying out its functions the board shall —

- a. advise the Synod, synodical schools, and congregations concerning evangelism;
- b. advise and cooperate with the Districts concerning evangelism;
- c. establish and supervise policies relating to evangelism;
- d. develop objectives, goals, and specific strategies for evangelism;
- e. arrange leadership training workshops and conferences in evangelism;
- f. produce and/or distribute evangelism materials;
- g. initiate and coordinate evangelism efforts in cooperation with other boards, commissions, and agencies of the Synod;
- h. design a suitable staff structure and call an executive secretary and other staff members as are needed and authorized;
- i. provide necessary research, evaluation, and record keeping.

8.47 District Boards for Evangelism

None

**8.49 Congregation Evangelism Board
(or Committee)**

None

8.47 District Boards for Evangelism

Each District of the Synod shall elect or in some other way provide a board (or committee) for evangelism. The District board shall cooperate with the Synod's Board for Evangelism and shall assist and advise congregations concerning evangelism.

**8.49 Congregation Evangelism Board
(or Committee)**

Each congregation is encouraged to establish a separate evangelism board (or committee) that will concern itself with the total evangelism challenge and program for both congregation and community.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Call an Additional Staff Person**RESOLUTION 1-07**

Report 1-01, V, Rec. 5 and 6 (CW, pp. 9-10)

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism is still in the process of developing its program and building its staff; and

WHEREAS, The service of the Board for Evangelism needs to expand to meet the increased requests from sister churches overseas, Districts, congregations, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, Evangelism staff assistance is needed to realize greater membership growth through such activities as evangelistic use of national radio and television programs in the local parish, press evangelism, programs to reduce defections, etc.; and

WHEREAS, An additional staff position in the area of overseas evangelism was authorized by the New Orleans convention but remains unfilled (see Recommendation 6, CW, pp. 9-10); therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention request the Board of Directors to authorize the calling of an additional staff person to the Board for Evangelism within the next fiscal year.

Action: Adopted (12)

**To Consider and Study Summary
Statements of the World
Congress on Evangelism****RESOLUTION 1-08**

Report 1-01, IV, 2 (CW, p. 5)

WHEREAS, Members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod were participants and visitors at the World Congress on Evangelism at Lausanne, Switzerland, July 16-25, 1974; and

WHEREAS, They have summarized the experience of these days of study and work together; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend to the Board for Evangelism these summary statements for consideration and study as the board plans and develops its work for the Synod:

a. We must share with all Christians the responsibility

to evangelize the whole world; no one group can do it alone.

b. We recognize other Christians as brothers and sisters in the family of God. We all seek to share the Gospel with others.

c. We need to seek to understand the parachurch structures and work with them when this is possible.

d. We need a Biblical, Christ-centered theology, and we must learn to say it clearly, so that it is communicated to others.

e. We must seek to minister to the whole person and cannot overlook either the spiritual or the physical needs.

f. We must continually update our missionary strategy.

g. We must live with a sense of urgency; and be it further

Resolved, That our congregations and Districts seriously study the statements of the Lausanne covenant.

Action: Adopted as amended (12).

(The final resolved was added by amendment.)

To Develop Skills in Evangelism**RESOLUTION 1-09**

Overtures 1-02, 1-04, 1-07 (CW, pp. 11-12); N.O. Res. 8-08 (CW, p. 447)

WHEREAS, All Christians are to preach the Word of God urgently at all times whenever they get the opportunity in season and out, when it is convenient and when it is not, in order to make the most of every opportunity to tell others the Good News, and we are to stand side by side with one strong purpose to tell the Good News fearlessly and be ready to explain the reason for our faith in a gentle and respectful way at all times, and make disciples and teach them to carry out the Commission He gave us (2 Tim. 4:2, Col. 4:5-6; Phil. 1:27; 1 Peter 3:15; Matt. 28:19-20); and

WHEREAS, Members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, along with all other Christians, are engaged in evangelizing the world by their witness to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; and

WHEREAS, Many pastors, teachers, and others in the

professional ministry of the church have not been trained for effective personal evangelism; and

WHEREAS, Many of these professional ministers have not been trained to equip their people for effective Christian witness; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul in Ephesians 4:1-16 clearly states that the gifts of ministry are to be used to "equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical colleges and seminaries that have implemented the teaching of the concept and practice of evangelism in their curricula continue their development, and that the other schools incorporate the concept and practice of evangelism in their curricula as soon as possible; and be it further

Resolved, That these professional ministers develop an ongoing ministry to instruct and train children, youth, and adults in their congregations and schools freely to express their faith in Christ to other people; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention affirm that personal evangelism is not an optional activity for its members, and that faithfulness to our Lord leads us to train for witness so that we can respond to the opportunities God gives us to share "so great a salvation."

Action: Adopted (12).

To Reach People with Special Needs

RESOLUTION 1-10

Report 1-01, IV (CW, p. 7)

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ compared the kingdom of God to a great feast to which many were invited but all declined, and to which He then invited the beggars, crippled, lame, and blind from the streets and alleys, the country lanes and from behind hedges (Luke 14:16-24); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord enjoins us to visit the sick and those in prison (Matt. 25:36); and

WHEREAS, We are servants being sent to a vast and neglected segment of society residing in hospitals, nursing homes, jails, rehabilitation centers, migrant camps, ghettos, drug clinics, and halfway houses with an invitation to dine with the Lord Jesus; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention affirm that our Lord has given each of us a responsibility commensurate with our individual talents, to make these invitations to those with special needs wherever they are to be found; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the Synod seek to participate in parish and community volunteer organizations which will offer opportunities to extend our Lord's invitation to a sick and desperate society; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism of the Synod, of each District and circuit, and of all congregations prepare a summary of voluntary agencies which provide

opportunities for Christian service and evangelism in accordance with Christ's mission to the whole man.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Intensify Publication of Evangelism Materials

RESOLUTION 1-11

Report 1-01, IV, 12 (CW, p. 7)

WHEREAS, The printed page is still an effective evangelism tool; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod ask the Board for Evangelism to intensify its efforts to produce, adapt, and develop materials for evangelism that are attractive, functional, and fully in accord with sound Lutheran doctrine; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage Concordia Publishing House to print and publish these materials which will assist the church in its evangelism efforts in the last quarter of the 20th century.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Develop Specialized Evangelism Literature and Techniques

RESOLUTION 1-12

Report 1-01, IV; Overture 1-06 (CW, pp. 7, 11-12)

WHEREAS, The evangelization of persons who belong to anti-Christian sects and cults presents peculiar problems; and

WHEREAS, Christians need special training to witness to them; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the Board for Evangelism to continue to develop specialized literature and techniques for evangelizing persons who belong to these groups.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Follow Up Contacts

RESOLUTION 1-13

Report 1-01, IV, 10 (CW, p. 7)

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has worked with Lutheran television to help make the television ministry a part of the evangelism outreach; and

WHEREAS, There are plans to continue expanding this approach and to develop materials for the local parish to facilitate visiting those who write in response to the programs; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations and pastors be encouraged to follow up all contacts from T.V., the Lutheran Hour, and other contacts under the supervision and direction of the Board for Evangelism.

Action: Adopted (12).

(The Lutheran Hour was added by common consent.)

2. MISSIONS

To Reaffirm Our Church's Mission

RESOLUTION 2-01A

(Replacing Res. 2-01)

Reports 2-01, M2-01A, M2-01B; Overtures 2-06A—2-15B, 2-32 (CW, pp. 15-20, 31-33, 37-38)

Jesus Christ is Lord!

In Phil. 2:8-11, the apostle Paul explains why Jesus Christ is Lord: "He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Although Jesus Christ is Lord, only 25% of the four billion people in our world today claim membership in the body of Christ. The challenge becomes even greater when we recognize that many of this billion may be Christians in name only.

In accepting the report of the Board for Missions (2-01), we commend the board for establishing the following overarching objectives:

"1. A growing number of people all over the world who worship and serve the true God, by word and deed witnessing to the saving work of God in Jesus Christ, and, while awaiting His final coming, proclaim His lordship over all of life. (Believers in Christ worshipping, witnessing to, and serving God in His Mission.)

2. Christian people, individually and corporately under the blessing of the Holy Spirit —

- a. living in faithfulness to the Word as given us in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the only standard of faith and life and to the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God;
- b. growing in faith and service, equipping and freeing each other to minister to people in all sorts of conditions;
- c. expressing an interdependence in giving and receiving the various gifts God has given each;
- d. responding to the challenge and opportunity to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to unevangelized people everywhere through creative ministries of witness and service;
- e. sharing with other churches and individuals the treasures God in His grace has entrusted to His people."

We regret and are grieved by the fact, as reported in the Board for Missions report, "that the theological divisiveness in the Synod has detracted from the ongoing mission work."

We are also saddened by the fact that tensions within the board and between the board and staff have not been

completely resolved, but we are gratified by recent indications that progress is being made toward resolving these differences.

We rejoice at the increase in national workers in overseas churches and at the development of a national ministry in sister churches overseas.

The emphasis on evangelism and missionary outreach in sister churches is also cause for great joy. We praise God that, for example, 5,000 were baptized in New Guinea during the past year. Jesus Christ is Lord!

We join the Board for Missions in expressing appreciation for the years of service given to the mission program by the twelve staff members who resigned during the past two years. We also join the Board for Missions in commending the staff members who remained and gave extraordinary service under difficult circumstances.

We thank and praise God for directing the Rev. A. L. Barry to accept the call to become the executive secretary of the Board for Missions. We pray God's blessings upon his work and leadership in implementing the policies and decisions of the Board for Missions.

Finally, we express our appreciation to the Board for Missions for the spirit of humility and commitment which permeates its report. We are especially grateful for the declaration in the report: "We cannot continue to count every sin or weigh and hold each charge in perpetual debate. In the quiet chambers of our hearts and in the hearing of the church we can before God and each other say: 'Lord, I am sorry for my part in all this. Please lead me to forgive others as You have forgiven me. Help me to be a better ambassador and servant in Your mission. Amen.'"

It is in this spirit of humility and commitment that we offer the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That we recognize that Christ's people must proclaim the Gospel so that by the power of the



Foreign missionaries here in Portugal.

Holy Spirit people may come to know and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior;

2. *Resolved*, That we recognize that responsibility and responsiveness in mission is motivated by the love and redemptive work of the Lord Jesus, who loved us and gave Himself for us;

3. *Resolved*, That we reaffirm the Scriptural truth that in the proclamation of the Gospel the verbal and/or written witness is indispensable;

4. *Resolved*, That we reaffirm the Scriptural truth that deeds of love which flow from the Gospel at work in the lives of God's people are an indispensable part of the church's mission;

5. *Resolved*, That responsible mission planning and activity includes a loving response to the needs and wills of our sister churches and mission fields and requires a genuine partnership and mutual sharing with co-workers throughout the world to foster an aggressive, growing mission in order that more people may learn the saving Word of Jesus Christ;

6. *Resolved*, That such partnership as we live it out within our Synod is possible only as we uncompromisingly remain faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions;

7. *Resolved*, That we as the Synod reaffirm that the Holy Spirit moves us to be of one heart and mind, "walking together" joyfully under Christ in the confessional unity of our faith;

8. *Resolved*, That our "walking together" by definition commits us to honor and uphold the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod;

9. *Resolved*, That in such "walking together" we recognize the responsibility of the Board for Missions to the Synod and the need for the unfailing support of the Synod to the Board for Missions as the Synod's primary agency in mission as it follows the Mission Affirmations under the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions as determinants and guides;

10. *Resolved*, That in such "walking together" we recognize the role of the President of the Synod as the chief ecumenical officer of the Synod as indicated in Bylaw 2.27h, which states: "The President shall represent the Synod in official contacts with all sister churches by aiding, counseling, and advising them and strengthening the relationships with and between them";

11. *Resolved*, That in such "walking together" we recognize the role of the CTCR in the church's mission as stated in Resolution 3-03 of the 1971 convention of the Synod, which states in its eighth resolved: "That the LCMS specifically assign the CTCR the responsibility of assisting the President in carrying out the Synod's theological and church relations responsibilities toward her sister churches"; and finally

12. *Resolved*, That with the help of Almighty God, we confess our sins and weaknesses to Him, put our human differences behind us, and thus united and with the power of the Holy Spirit, move confidently forward in His mission.

Action: Adopted (4).

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 2-01 with Res. 2-01A. A motion to amend the resolution by striking Point 8 as contrary to Article VII of the Constitution failed. The convention declined to consider a substitute motion. At one point a motion to close debate failed of the required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, 594 to 417. A later call for closing of debate was approved by the delegates, who then declined a request for a division. After a point of order had been raised stating that there is a difference between a call for division of the house and a call for a count, the chair placed before the assembly once again for a standing vote the question of closing debate. The chair ruled that the required $\frac{2}{3}$ vote had been achieved. A motion for a count was declined by the assembly through a voice vote. The resolution was then adopted.)

To Conclude the Work of the Mission Study Commission

RESOLUTION 2-02A

(Replacing Res. 2-02)

Report 2-04; Overtures 2-13A—2-14 (CW, pp. 29-31, 33)

WHEREAS, It has been a decade since the new Board for Missions was created and evaluation is thus in order at this time; and

WHEREAS, God in His wisdom has permitted the Synod to experience painful tensions within its mission program; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Synod, in an attempt to resolve these tensions, appointed a special Mission Study Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Study Commission has submitted an extensive report and recommendations to the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is in the process of acting on the following recommendations: 6, 7a, 7b, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, and 24 (CW, pp. 29-31); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is distributing the report and recommendations of the Mission Study Commission to the Board for Missions, the District presidents, District mission boards, and sister churches; and

WHEREAS, There has not been enough time for these individuals and groups to respond to the report and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Some of the recommendations of the Mission Study Commission concern themselves with changes in the administrative structure of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 8.07a (1973 *Handbook*, p. 173) lists "Functions of the Board" (that is, Board for Missions) as follows: "The Board shall formulate, recommend, review, and supervise the mission policy of the Synod, direct and adopt planning in keeping therewith, establish and supervise budgets, review organizational effectiveness, effect the correlation and coordination of the synodical mission endeavors with other boards, agencies, and auxiliaries of the Synod, and do all else necessary to provide for an aggressive and united mission effort for the Synod"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Mission Study Commission receive response to its report and recommendations from the District presidents, District mission boards, and sister

churches and submit these responses to the Board of Directors and the Board for Missions by Dec. 31, 1975; and be it further

Resolved, That sister churches who are unable to give their response to the report and recommendations of the Mission Study Commission before Dec. 31, 1975, be requested to submit their response to the President of the LCMS as soon as possible; and be it further

Resolved, That the Mission Study Commission be disbanded after presenting these responses to the Board of Directors and the Board for Missions; and be it further

Resolved, That all records of the Mission Study Commission be given for safekeeping to the Secretary of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That recommendations dealing with proposed administrative changes (e.g., recommendations 3, 4, and 8, *CW*, p. 30) be referred to the Committee for Reorganization for consideration in relationship to the total organization of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That other recommendations not previously acted on by the Board of Directors be referred to a joint meeting of the Board for Missions and the Board of Directors; and be it further

Resolved, That, as a result of this meeting and in accordance with Bylaw 8.07a, the Board for Missions shall be empowered to act on the Mission Study Commission report and recommendations within the framework of the present Bylaws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions actively seek and carefully weigh the counsel of the sister churches and the mission fields in formulating and administering future policies and programs and recognize that many decisions must be made on the basis of this counsel of the sister churches; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank the Mission Study Commission for its work and encourage the Board for Missions to use this report and other input in a forward-moving and aggressive mission program; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions and the Committee for Reorganization report progress on these matters to the 1977 convention of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted as amended (5).*

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 2-02 with Res. 2-02A. The amendment was the insertion into the third-last resolved of the final words: "and recognize that many decisions" The numbers "2" and "23" were also removed from the fifth whereas.)

To Expand and Increase Mission Work

RESOLUTION 2-03

Overtures 2-16—2-18B (*CW*, p. 34)

WHEREAS, The Great Commission of our Lord is to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and by teaching them; and

WHEREAS, The Gospel has been preached to the ends of the world, yet three billion people do not confess Jesus Christ as their Savior; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod needs to be bolder and more creative in expanding mission fields to proclaim the Gospel message; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Missions actively seek new areas of ministry, promote and support expansion within and through sister churches, and in coordinate planning with other Lutherans and Christians speedily respond to the Lord's command; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod commend the workers in the world's mission fields for their desire to increase the outreach of our Lord's command to preach the Gospel to all; and be it finally

Resolved, That the entire membership of the Synod fervently support such work not only with their earnest prayers but most especially with their renewed and strengthened financial support, with the assurance that such work is being done for our Lord and Redeemer.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Study Possibility of Beginning Work in Angola and Mozambique

RESOLUTION 2-04A

(Replacing Res. 2-04)

Overture 2-19 (*CW*, pp. 34-35)

WHEREAS, A preliminary survey in the former Portuguese territories of Mozambique and Angola has confirmed that, though existing churches have made valiant efforts, there are still several million people in these two areas who have never been reached with the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Certain restrictions on Protestant evangelistic activity in these two areas have apparently been lifted, at least for the time being; and

WHEREAS, Mozambique became an independent nation on June 25, 1975, and Angola expects to become independent on Nov. 11, 1975; and

WHEREAS, This present period of transition has been marked by uncertainty, unrest, and even armed conflict; and

WHEREAS, Concern has been expressed by some churches in these areas lest the Missouri Synod begin new work without proper consultation or coordination with other Christians; and

WHEREAS, Further in-depth research in both areas is required before a final decision can be made whether or not to send Missouri Synod missionaries, either from the Brazil District or from the United States; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention commend the Brazil District and the LCMS Board for Missions for initiating a preliminary survey of Mozambique and Angola; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Board for Missions in consultation with the Brazil District be encouraged to carry out an extensive, in-depth study of mission opportunities in these two areas; and be it further

Resolved, That this mission effort be undertaken after

due consultation and coordination with other Christians in this area; and be it further

Resolved, That in consultation with the Brazil District and the LCMS Board for Missions, the Board of Directors be authorized to decide, on the basis of such in-depth study, whether or not The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod should enter one or both fields; and be it finally

Resolved, That, if such authorization is granted, the Board for Missions and the Brazil District, in mutual consultation, determine what form such mission activity might take (e.g., Bible translation, mass communications, medical missions, educational missions, secondment, support to already existing mission efforts, direct evangelism, or a combination of these in a team ministry, etc.)

Action: Adopted (7).

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 2-04 with Res. 2-04A.)

To Enlarge North American Indian Ministry

RESOLUTION 2-05

Overture 2-20 (CW, p. 35)

WHEREAS, We are commissioned to reach all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that we have failed to reach the North American Indian in any significant way; and

WHEREAS, Such failure is largely due to our neglect to recognize the different cultural forms and styles of expression of the North American Indian; and

WHEREAS, Our witness is not to our form of life and worship, but only to the Word that is Jesus Christ; therefore be it

Resolved, That we foster a more evangelical rather than a paternalistic approach toward the North American Indian; and be it further

Resolved, That we seek to equip our congregations for a more effective witness to North American Indians in their own communities; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia College, Seward, be commended for initiating specialized training for Indian ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions be directed to seek out additional means by which people can be prepared for this ministry, and that progress be reported to the 1977 synodical convention.

Action: Adopted (7).

To Ratify CCM Campus Ministry Opinion

RESOLUTION 2-06

Overtures 2-29A—2-30B (CW, p. 37) (CCM "Constitutional Opinion re Campus Ministries," CW, p. 484)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Mat-

ters, after having studied the various actions taken by recent conventions of the Synod with regard to campus ministries, after having reviewed the instruments which some of the joint enterprises have developed in several Districts of the Synod to carry on campus ministry, and after having sought the guidance of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations with reference to the "theological" and "church relations" aspects of these matters, ruled the following:

During recent years several joint enterprises for carrying on campus ministry have been developed in several of the Districts of the Synod. Descriptions of these ventures have ranged from "purely administrative" to "joint ministry in Word and Sacrament." From several different directions, specifically from those involved in the work and from the Board for Missions and its staff, the Commission on Constitutional Matters has been asked to render a constitutional opinion.

The Commission has studied the various actions taken by recent conventions of the Synod. It has received voluminous documentation from various sources in support of varying points of view. It has reviewed the instruments by which some of these joint enterprises are governed. It has sought the guidance of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations with reference to the "theological" and "church relations" aspects of these matters.

The Commission on Constitutional Matters has arrived at the following conclusions:

1. The Synod has indeed entrusted campus work to its Districts.

2. The Synod, however, retains at all times to itself jurisdiction with respect to everything which is administered by or for the entire Synod, including "conduct of negotiations and affiliations with other church bodies" (Bylaws 1.21, 3.07).

3. The Commission on Constitutional Matters rules that joint campus worship communities and joint campus ministries of Word and Sacrament with church groups with which the Synod has not as yet established fellowship relations are improper in the light of Article III, 1; Article VI, 2; Bylaws 1.21, 3.07.

4. The Commission also rules that it is improper for a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation to hold membership also in another church body or to be under the ecclesiastical supervision of another church body.

5. Districts are free to deal with representatives of other church bodies in purely administrative matters (e.g., comity arrangements, sharing of facilities, publicity, etc.) which do not involve joint ministry of Word and Sacrament.

6. Whether special administrative units need to be called into being for such purely administrative purposes may be left to the discretion of the Districts. In many instances these may well prove to be superfluous.

Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod ratify these rulings of the CCM.

Action: Adopted (12).

(This resolution was discussed also in Session 7. The convention declined to consider overture 2-30A as a substitute. Resolution 2-06 was adopted by a standing vote of 556 to 439 after extended debate.)

To Reaffirm the Synod's Position On Campus Ministry

RESOLUTION 2-07A

(Replacing Res. 2-07)

Overtures 2-21, 2-23A—B, 2-25A—2-28B (CW, pp. 35-37)

WHEREAS, The Synod has expressly stated that college

and university ministries are a responsibility of the Districts of the Synod (Res. 2-27, 1962 *Proceedings*, p. 100; Res. 3-20, 1969 *Proceedings*, p. 101); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has provided for consultative and coordinative planning with other Lutherans on matters pertaining to campus ministries (Res. 3-20, 1967 *Proceedings*, pp. 101-102; Res. 1-20, 1969 *Proceedings*, pp. 82-83); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has directed its Districts to exercise leadership in the planning and development of campus ministry programs, but has not authorized its Districts to disregard any synodical fellowship principles or policies, including prohibition of unionistic practices; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has reviewed New Orleans Resolution 2-37, "To Reaffirm Synod's Position Regarding Tri-Lutheran Campus Ministry" (Res. 2-37, 1973 *Proceedings*, p. 121), and found that "it accurately reflects the Synod's position" (CTCR Minutes, March 26, 1974); and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions is studying the operations and practices of the LCMS campus ministries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its position that Districts continue to carry out campus ministry programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod urge continued consultative and coordinative planning with other Lutherans in the development of campus ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its position that the achievement of doctrinal agreement and the subsequent synodical establishment of fellowship must precede joint involvement with other Christians in matters directly pertaining to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament or directly affecting the doctrinal position of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all pastors of the Synod to continue to minister to the spiritual needs of those on the college and university campus, exercising a sincere pastoral concern for the members of the campus community and applying the Communion guidelines of Lutheran military and institutional chaplains; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions, in the light of the CCM "Opinion on Campus Ministries" and in consultation with District mission boards, campus ministry coordinators, and campus pastors, continue to study the operations and practices of the LCMS campus ministries, including tri-Lutheran agencies, and develop position statements to be presented to the 1977 convention of the Synod for action; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod urge all those involved in these matters to work out differences of interpretation and opinion with true Christian charity and fraternity, and with sincere regard for the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it finally

Resolved, That all congregations of the Synod pray

for, encourage, and support campus ministry as one of its ministries in the church of Jesus Christ.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 2-07 with Res. 2-07A. The assembly declined to consider Overture 2-22 as a substitute resolution and to strike the fourth whereas and the third and sixth resolveds. It did amend the fourth resolved by adding the final words, "and applying the Communion guidelines...")

To Increase Our Involvement to the Whole Man

RESOLUTION 2-08

Overtures 2-05A—2-05D (CW, p. 31)

WHEREAS, God in His grace has called us to be His own; and

WHEREAS, In response to His gracious call we proclaim His redemptive love and grace to all people; and

WHEREAS, The proclamation of God's love not only includes preaching, teaching, and baptizing, but also healing the sick, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely and bereaved; and

WHEREAS, There is a sense of urgency in the time in which we live; therefore be it

Resolved, That we continue to remind each other of God's grace in calling us to be His own; and be it further

Resolved, That God's Word of forgiveness and redemptive love in Christ be proclaimed in an ever greater measure as God gives us the opportunity to do so; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage congregations to carry out the Savior's will by bringing His love to bear on the problems of the hungry, the sick, and those discriminated against because of race or other conditions; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention invite every member individually and collectively to respond to His call by recommitting himself and his resources in an ever increasing way.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Appoint Black Mission Model Task Force

RESOLUTION 2-09A

(Replacing Res. 2-09)

Overture 2-01 (CW, p. 18)

WHEREAS, A synodical resolution of the 1956 convention (Res. 26, *Proceedings*) directed our congregations to reach out to all within their communities; and

WHEREAS, This policy, because of systematic expansion of the black community, demands in effect that white members be the first to be involved in outreach to incoming blacks; and

WHEREAS, The attitude and practice of some areas of

the country seems to be moving away from a commitment to racial integration, which would make the implementation of the 1956 resolution less effective; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod direct the Board for Missions, in consultation with the Black Clergy Caucus of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to appoint a task force of lay persons and clergy with competent staff personnel; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force evaluate the effectiveness of the St. Paul resolution for today's conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That this task force explore other models of ministry and mission outreach which would be more effective, efficient, and adaptable in and to the black community; and be it further

Resolved, That funds for this study be made available by the Board of Directors; and be it finally

Resolved, That this task force serve during the next biennium and report its progress to the Board for Missions and its recommendations to the 1977 synodical convention.

Action: Adopted (14).

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 2-09 with Res. 2-09A.)

To Decline Recommended *Handbook* Changes Regarding Medical Missions

RESOLUTION 2-10A

(Replacing Res. 2-10)

Report 2-03 (CW, pp. 23-29)

WHEREAS, The relationship between the Council for Christian Medical Work, the Board for Missions and its staff is not clearly defined in the proposed *Handbook* changes; and

WHEREAS, The staff of the Board for Missions is in a state of reorganization and needs time for readjustment; and

WHEREAS, The recommended *Handbook* changes do not clearly identify the role of medical missions in our total mission program; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed the work of the Council for Christian Medical Work as an arm of the Board for Missions in the past; therefore be it

Resolved, That pending further study by the Board for Missions and other related groups, a decision regarding the recommended *Handbook* changes concerning medical missions be deferred until the 1977 synodical convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That during the interim the Board for Missions continue a workable program of medical missions.

Action: Adopted (14).

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 2-10 with Res. 2-10A. The convention declined an amendment to change "a workable" to "the present workable." It was stated that the intention was not that the present program could not be continued.)

To Decline Overture 2-31 "To Support 'Partners in Mission'"

RESOLUTION 2-11A

(Replacing Res. 2-11)

Overture 2-31 (CW, p. 37)

WHEREAS, We as a Synod recognize commendable objectives in the program of Partners in Mission to provide avenues for proclaiming the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, This could be done with greater effectiveness by "walking together" as partners in the Gospel within the framework of the mission program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 2-31 "To Support 'Partners in Mission.'"

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Encourage Districts to Develop Special Ministries

RESOLUTION 2-12

Overture 2-22 (CW, p. 35)

WHEREAS, Districts are developing special ministries; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board for Missions has been entrusted with the task of consulting with those working in the areas of special ministries and campus ministries; and

WHEREAS, Degrees of variance and approaches to these special areas of work will be provided in these consultations; therefore be it

Resolved, That Districts be encouraged to continue the development of special ministries under the guidelines of the Synod's policies and procedures.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Provide Assurance to Congregations in Their Support for Special Ministries

RESOLUTION 2-13

Overture 2-24 (CW, p. 35)

WHEREAS, Special ministries at home and abroad often require innovative ideas to carry out their goals; and

WHEREAS, Our congregations, as they support these special areas of the work of the church, need the assurance that those who are engaged in special ministries are working within the framework of the Synod's doctrinal position in their practice; therefore be it

Resolved, That those responsible for the supervision of doctrine and practice consult with those in special

ministries to give assurance to the church that concerns over doctrine and practice are not ignored.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Report Mission Funds More Clearly

RESOLUTION 2-14

Overture 2-34 (CW, p. 38)

WHEREAS, The whole church is Christ's mission to the whole world; and

WHEREAS, It is important for boards, Districts, congregations, and individual Christians to be aware of how mission funds are being administered, in which areas of the world, and according to what needs and priorities; and

WHEREAS, Current practice in the Synod and the Districts includes all synodical mission funds under one general heading: "World Missions"; and

WHEREAS, Such listing of mission activity and support under the general heading "World Missions" is often misleading and gives members a distorted and confused idea of our overseas mission endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Some Districts have heretofore refused to allow member congregations to designate mission money for general overseas use and to receive credit for same; therefore be it

Resolved, That synodical agencies be requested to clearly define and distinguish between money used in North America and money used for overseas purposes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod promote the education of members regarding the actual number of missionaries at home and overseas, as well as the needs, opportunities, and growth or decline of mission field areas, and the expenditure of funds to carry on the mission of Christ in these places; and be it further

Resolved, That Districts be encouraged to gratefully receive, channel, and give credit for all funds designated for general missions overseas; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod report clearly and comprehensively, in the *Statistical Yearbook* and in other informational literature, the totals of both money and manpower used overseas.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Encourage Uniformity of Procedure for Synodical and District Church Extension Funds

RESOLUTION 2-15

Report 2-02, III, C (CW, p. 23)

WHEREAS, Loan funds of both the Synod's and the Districts' Church Extension Funds become involved in District loans to congregations; and

WHEREAS, Compatibility is important to protect the integrity of all Church Extension Funds; and

WHEREAS, Variances can create a concern for administration; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod's Church Extension Board be encouraged to take the initiative to cooperate with the Districts to coordinate their endeavors to provide for a more uniform procedure.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Encourage Church Extension Board to Operate Uniformly Throughout the Districts of the Synod

RESOLUTION 2-16

Report 2-02, III, G. (CW, p. 23)

WHEREAS, The Church Extension Fund has basically been related to the needs of newly established and subsidized congregations, and the Synod's Church Extension Board has regularly granted loans to Districts to meet these needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod's Church Extension Board establish and carry out its policies for granting loans uniformly throughout all the Districts of the Synod.

Action: Adopted (14).

(An amendment to add to the resolved the words "with specific emphasis on inner-city ministries" failed to carry.)

To Seek State Licensing and/or Certification for Church Extension Department

RESOLUTION 2-17

Report 2-02, III, B (CW, p. 23)

WHEREAS, Certain states are requiring charitable and not-for-profit agencies to become licensed and/or certified by their Securities and Exchange Commissions; and

WHEREAS, This ruling affects also the Synod's and Districts' Church Extension Funds in their respective areas; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage both the Synod's and the Districts' Church Extension Departments to study the requirements and to seek proper licensing and/or certification as required in the respective areas.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Urge Church Extension Board to Generate Capital for Its Service-Charge Loan Fund

RESOLUTION 2-18

Report 2-02, II, B (CW, p. 22)

WHEREAS, The Church Extension Fund has provided service-charge loans for ministries in the Synod and Districts; and

WHEREAS, Loan requests exceed the availability of service-charge funds; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in the past has contributed to this fund but, because of its financial status, cannot at this time; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod urge the Church Extension Board to generate capital for its service-charge loan fund.

Action: Adopted (14).

To Defer the Request for Church Extension Funds for Budget of the Synod

RESOLUTION 2-19

Report 4-04, V., Rec. D (CW, p. 144)

WHEREAS, The question of directing church extension funds for the regular operating budget of the Synod has been submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters to determine the constitutionality according to the present Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the answer to the request in recommendation D of Section V, Use of Church Extension Funds (CW, p. 144), be deferred until the CCM has had the opportunity to submit a ruling.

Action: This resolution was withdrawn as out of order after the convention had been informed that the Commission on Constitutional Matters had ruled that the earnings of the Fund revert back to the Fund until a convention amends the Bylaws (14).

To Decline Resolution Declaring Congregations Which Support ELIM Ineligible to Receive LCMS Mission Funds

RESOLUTION 2-20A

(Replacing Res. 2-20)

Overture 2-35 (CW, p. 38)

WHEREAS, Our dear Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is carrying on a full mission program including subsidized congregations, and relies upon our unified "walking together"; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 2-35; and be it further

Resolved, That it is improper for subsidized congregations to use mission funds to support ELIM.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The floor committee had replaced its tentative Res. 2-20 with Res. 2-20A).

To Decline Overture 2-33 (World Mission Institute)

RESOLUTION 2-21A

(Replacing Res. 2-21)

Overture 2-33 (CW, p. 38)

WHEREAS, The leadership of the Lutheran Women's

Missionary League has made available to the World Mission Institute, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the remaining funds of the Mission Projects Grant of the 1973 LWML convention for World Mission Institute scholarships; and

WHEREAS, It is clearly established that only Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is entitled to the use of the name World Mission Institute; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 2-33.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The committee had replaced its tentative Res. 2-21 with Res. 2-21A.)

To Recognize and Thank Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc.

RESOLUTION 2-22

Report 2-01 (CW, p. 20)

WHEREAS, The 7,000 volunteers of the Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc., with headquarters in Yucaipa, Calif., have rendered a distinctive Christian ministry by supplying free Braille and sight-saving material; and

WHEREAS, This ministry is performed without expense to the Synod by means of freewill offerings of many individuals and groups; and

WHEREAS, The sainted Robert Loewe and his surviving wife have directed this specialized ministry for 30 years; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod thank the Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc., and Mrs. Robert Loewe, its present executive director, for this blessed labor of love and necessity, and commend this ministry to God for His continued grace and blessing.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Expand Work in Portugal in Cooperation with the Brazil District

RESOLUTION 2-23

Overture 2-19 (CW, p. 34)

WHEREAS, The Brazil District has pioneered mission work in Portugal since 1963; and

WHEREAS, This effort needs to be expanded beyond the present resources of the Brazil District; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Hour is opening many doors of opportunity, particularly in the north; and

WHEREAS, There is need to develop a theological center for the training of national workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That after thorough consultation and study on the part of both the Board for Missions and the Brazil District the work in Portugal be expanded and funded on a mutually agreeable basis.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

3. THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

To Seek Unity

RESOLUTION 3-01

Report 3-01 (CW, p. 46 ff.); Overtures 3-11—3-26, 3-30—3-31K, 3-34—3-38I, 3-40—3-44, 3-49A—E, 3-132, 3-165, 3-251 (CW, pp. 66—78, 102, 112, 139)

WHEREAS, There is a hunger and longing for peace and unity among all members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures call upon us to be of one faith "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3-5); and

WHEREAS, One of the Synod's stated objectives is "the conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith and a united defense against schism and sectarianism" (*Handbook*, Constitution, Art. III, 1); and

WHEREAS, The mission of the church can be pursued with added joy and effectiveness when members of the Synod share a sense of unity and purpose; and

WHEREAS, This unity must not be superficial, but rather a concord, and that "the primary requirement for basic and permanent concord within the church is a summary formula and pattern, unanimously approved, in which the summarized doctrine commonly confessed by the churches of the pure Christian religion is drawn together out of the Word of God" (F.C., S.D., Summary Formulation, 1); and

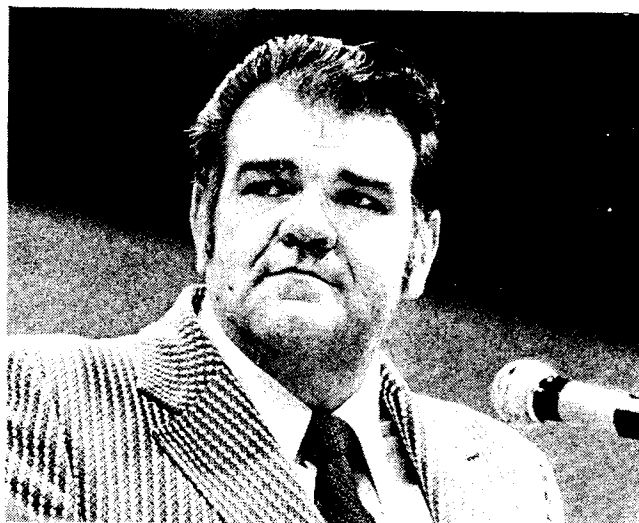
WHEREAS, The confessions also instruct us that "In order to preserve the pure doctrine and to maintain a thorough, lasting, and God-pleasing concord within the church, it is essential not only to present the true and wholesome doctrine correctly, but also to accuse the adversaries who teach otherwise (1 Tim. 3:9; Titus 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:24; 3:16)" (F.C., S.D., Summary Formulation, 14); and

WHEREAS, In carrying out these directives we must always remember St. Paul's instructions to the Colossians when he told them to act in love, be willing to forgive one another, be patient, and to let the Word of Christ dwell in them richly (Col. 3:12-16); and

WHEREAS, Concord can come only as we study God's Word and pray under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; therefore be it

Resolved, That we recognize that we are all sinners in the eyes of God, and therefore as sinners should evaluate our own lives to see whether we have in some way contributed to the problems that beset our Synod, that as sinners we should bow humbly and in true repentance before our God, asking for His forgiveness and then be willing to forgive one another as Christ has taught us to do; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon the members of the Synod honestly and forthrightly to express points of disagreement and openly confront differences and that this be done among ourselves rather than before the eyes



Dr. August Mennicke, chairman of Committee 3

of the world where it can be only an offense (1 Cor. 6:1-6); and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod resist efforts to cause division, but instead pray that the Holy Spirit, through the power of the Word, bring about concord; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon all members of the Synod to walk together in wholehearted support of the objectives of the Synod and its worldwide mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; and be it further

Resolved, That in the interest of furthering concord the Synod undertake the following:

1. That we encourage the President of the Synod to convene either regional conferences or a national conference of circuit counselors and circuit lay representatives within the next biennium for the purpose of discussing both theology and the mission of the church, and that in so doing he take into consideration the recommendations of the planning committee of the Theological Convocation;

2. That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be encouraged to continue to carry out its responsibilities as outlined in the synodical *Handbook*, Bylaw 2.109, b, 1, ee, namely, that of "fostering and providing for ongoing theological education through institutes, seminars, and other means," and that the Board of Directors be encouraged to authorize the expenditures of the necessary funds;

3. That the CTCR shall coordinate the preparation of a series of Bible class studies, taking into account such materials as those presented and discussed at the Theological Convocation of April 14—18, 1975; and be it finally

Resolved, That we implore the blessing of Almighty God upon our efforts to achieve true and lasting peace and concord.

Action: Adopted as amended (5).

(The convention declined an amendment for a final resolved declaring N.O. Res. 2-12, 3-01, and 3-09 in addition to Res. 6-02 of the present convention null and void, asking for recognition of Seminex as a seminary of the LCMS and the ordination and installation of Seminex graduates, and calling for the cessation of any oppressive action until the meetings for the discussion of theology and mission of the church had taken place. It also declined to delete Point 1. It did, however, add the words "and pray" in the final whereas.)

To Reaffirm the Desire to Establish Fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Australia

RESOLUTION 3-02

Report 3-01, II, D (CW, p. 43)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod feels a close kinship with fellow Lutherans in Australia; and

WHEREAS, The Denver convention (1969 *Proceedings*, Res. 3-03, p. 94) expressed the desire of the LCMS to enter into discussions leading to altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Australia; and

WHEREAS, Correspondence and personal meetings between the Presidents of the two Lutheran church bodies have reflected a desire for a closer relationship between the LCMS and the Lutheran Church in Australia and have encouraged confessional discussions among Lutherans; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its continued desire to establish altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Australia and pray that God will richly bless our mutual efforts to that end.

Action: Adopted (5).

To Respond to Concerns Regarding Former Faculty Members

RESOLUTION 3-03A

(Replacing Resolution 3-03)

Overtures 3-46—3-48, 3-50, 3-82, 3-83 (CW, pp. 77—78, 88)

WHEREAS, It is a matter of great urgency for the welfare of individuals involved and our whole Synod that a determination be made as to which members, if any, of the former "faculty majority" of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, adhere to the doctrinal positions condemned in New Orleans Res. 3-09; and

WHEREAS, The language of N. O. Res. 3-09 has led to some confusion; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Control of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, does not have jurisdiction over members of the former faculty who are no longer teaching at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Synod, after consultation with the Vice-Presidents and the Council of Presidents, appoint a committee of five to determine, by means of an individual interview process on the basis of

the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, which former faculty members adhere to the false doctrine specified by the Synod in N.O. Res. 3-09; and be it further

Resolved, That the names of those whose position is found to be in accord with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions be released to the church, and that the Board for Higher Education, the Boards of Control of the synodical colleges and seminaries, and the congregations of the Synod be urged to give consideration to calling these professors; and be it further

Resolved, That in the case of those whose position is found not to be in harmony with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions the matter be placed into the hands of the appropriate District President as a charge to be dealt with in accordance with Bylaw 5.11; and be it finally

Resolved, That in Christian concern we encourage the members of the former faculty to avail themselves of this opportunity for their own sake and for the sake of peace and harmony in the church.

Action: Adopted (6).

(The floor committee replaced tentative Res. 3-03 with 3-03A. Discussion began in Session 5. A motion to table the resolution failed to carry. When the automatic call for the question was presented after 30 minutes of debate, the chair ruled that the necessary $\frac{2}{3}$ vote had been received. At this point a delegate asked for an opinion regarding the constitutionality of this resolution. In Session 6 the Commission on Constitutional Matters reported that in its opinion the consideration of Res. 3-03A was constitutional although it reserved the right to alter its opinion after further consideration. The chairman of Committee 3 called upon the chairman of the floor committee on constitutional matters since that committee had prepared a similar resolution (5-04) dealing with similar matters. The President was granted the privilege of addressing the convention on this subject and reminded the delegates that this resolution was also intended to meet the request of the former seminary students relating to the personal position of their instructors. In response to a question from the floor the chair stated that the debate had been terminated since there had been no call for a division of the house when the chair had announced the result of the voice vote on termination in the previous session. After declining a motion to reopen discussion, the convention adopted Res. 3-03A.)

To Reaffirm the Right of the Synod to Adopt Doctrinal Statements and to Establish Procedures

RESOLUTION 3-04

Reports 5-01, IV, H; App. 5-01 B (CW, 205-207); Overtures 3-51A—3-55Q, 3-61, 3-63A—C, 3-69A—D, 3-91A—3-95C, 3-97A—3-100B, 3-102—3-108, 3-110—3-120C; N.O. Res. 5-03 (CW, pp. 78—79, 81, 81—82, 84, 90—100, 440)

WHEREAS, Concern has been expressed in a number of overtures over the right of the Synod to adopt doctrinal statements; and

WHEREAS, Other overtures have also expressed concern relating to procedures when adopting doctrinal statements and relating to the binding nature of doctrinal statements; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has asserted its right to adopt doctrinal statements (Cleveland Resolution 3-17, 1962

Proceedings, p. 106; Milwaukee Resolutions 2-21 and 5-24, 1971 *Proceedings*, pp. 117 ff. and 163 ff.; New Orleans Resolution 2-12, 1973 *Proceedings*, pp. 111 ff.); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod adopt the opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (App. 5-01B; *CW*, p. 206):

In order to give witness to its faith in the face of contemporary issues and in order to settle controversies within its own midst, the Synod has the right to adopt doctrinal resolutions and to ask its members to uphold them. In doing so the Synod cannot and does not establish new doctrines but merely gives joyful assent to what in its conviction is taught in the sacred Scriptures. Indeed, insofar as such resolutions are in accord with the Scriptures they are binding on those who accept Article II of the Synod's Constitution.

And be it further

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed by the synodical President after consultation with the Vice-Presidents, consisting of one member each from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, the Commission on Constitutional Matters, the Council of Presidents, the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, and the Concordia Historical Institute (with a view that the committee consist of theologians, constitutionalists, and church historians), which shall present to the 1977 convention a proposed addition to the *Handbook* in order to set forth clearly:

- a. The status of doctrinal statements as distinguished from the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions;
- b. The procedures for adoption of such statements;
- c. The procedures for proper expression of dissent and possible revision.

Action: Adopted (6).

(The convention declined to eliminate the first resolved and also declined to consider Overture 3-94A as a substitute. After the convention had voted to terminate debate after 30 minutes, it adopted Res. 3-04.)

To Clarify Declaration Concerning "A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles"

RESOLUTION 3-05

Reports 3-01, I, A, 5-01, App. 5-01B (*CW*, pp. 39, 206—207), **Overtures 3-56A—3-75, 3-91A—3-106C, 3-109—3-111, 3-119—3-121** (*CW*, pp. 79—86, 90—96, 98—100)

WHEREAS, Concern has been expressed in a number of overtures about the adoption of New Orleans Resolution 3-01, 1973 *Proceedings*, pp. 127—128, "A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles," and also about the use of the same; and

WHEREAS, About 50 of the 575 communications of dissent received by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations included specific theological objections, and were helpful in evaluation and in the preparation of the "Report on Dissent"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend to its members for

reference and guidance the report titled "Guiding Principles for the Use of *A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles* with Special Reference to the Expression of Dissent" (1975 *CW*, pp. 468—470), the closing sentences of which read:

A Statement is not to be used mechanically or legalistically to discipline members of the Synod, but it is to be honored, upheld, and used fraternally and evangelically throughout the Synod in an effort to assist the Synod in remaining faithful to its confessional position. Used in this way, *A Statement* may, with the blessing of God's Holy Spirit, serve the "conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith" (Constitution, Article III) and aid the Synod in the faithful proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world.

And be it further

Resolved, That the Synod commend the document titled "Report on Dissent" (1975 *CW*, pp. 462—467) to its members for reference and guidance; and be it further

Resolved, That in the interest of clarification the Synod instruct the CTCR to prepare and submit to the 1977 convention the following recommended revisions in *A Statement*:

1. Article I, add a footnote explaining the term "Anonymous Christians."

2. Article II, while rightly ascribing an instructional function to the Law, express more explicitly the accusing function of the Law so that it is clearly stated that the Law always instructs in such a way that it at the same time shows the need for constant repentance in the life of Christians.

3. Article III contain an additional antithesis rejecting any view of the church's mission that fails to recognize the witness value of deeds of love which flow from faith.

4. Article IV contain a statement on prophecy that recognizes and expresses the broader connotations of the term "prophecy" in the Old Testament; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod adopt the opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters:

Since the Synod has the right to adopt doctrinal resolutions, it also had the right to adopt Resolution 3-01.

In Resolution 3-01 the Synod approved a document known as *A Statement*. That document therefore comes under the provision of New Orleans Resolution 2-12: "That the Synod reaffirm its position (Res. 2-21 and 5-24, Milwaukee *Proceedings*) that such statements, insofar as they are in accord with the Scriptures, are, pursuant to Article II of the Synod's Constitution, binding upon all its members (cf. also Article VII)."

However, the Synod cannot make *A Statement* binding upon its members in the same sense in which the Scripture is binding. Nor can it ask its members to bind themselves to *A Statement* in the same manner in which they freely bind themselves to the Lutheran Confessions.

Resolution 3-01 does not broaden the confessional base of the Synod. It was not offered as a constitutional amendment. It is to be recognized as a properly adopted resolution. In it the Synod determined that *A Statement* defines the corporate position of the Synod and sets forth the public teaching of the Synod.

The adoption of Resolution 3-01 by the Synod does not bind the individual conscience any more than any other human document can; only Scripture should bind the conscience. As Luther stated before the Diet of Worms:

"Unless I am convinced by the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures or evident reason (for I believe neither in the Pope nor Councils alone, since it has been established that

they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures adduced by me, and my conscience has been taken captive by the Word of God, and I am neither able nor willing to recant, since it is neither safe nor right to act against conscience. God help me. Amen."

To the person troubled in his conscience, the Synod says:

"If a member cannot for conscience sake accept a doctrinal resolution of the Synod, he has the obligation and opportunity through mutually approved procedure to challenge such a resolution with a view of effecting the changes he deems necessary. Failing in that, he is completely free by reason of his wholly voluntary association with the Synod to obey his conscience and disassociate himself from the Synod. Meanwhile every member of the Synod is held to abide by, act, and teach in accordance with the Synod's resolutions." (Milwaukee Resolution 2-21, 1971 *Proceedings*, p. 119).

Subscription to *A Statement* cannot be a requirement for membership in the Synod. However, already at the Cleveland convention in 1962, the Synod resolved "that the Synod beseech all its members by the mercies of God to honor and uphold the doctrinal content of these synodically adopted statements" (Cleveland Resolution 3-17, 1962 *Proceedings*, p. 106). And "to honor and uphold means not merely to examine and study them, but to support, act, and teach in accordance with them until they have been shown to be contrary to God's Word." (Milwaukee Resolution 2-21, 1971 *Proceedings*, p. 119);

and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm that *A Statement* is in accord with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, and contains nothing contrary to them, and is in accord with the doctrinal position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as it has been taught historically and expressed in the official doctrinal statements of the Synod (N.O. Resolution 3-01, 1973 *Proceedings*, pp. 127—128).

Action: Adopted (9).

(In introducing Res. 3-05 in Session 6, the floor committee made several changes in wording: 1. "reference and guidance" in the first two resolveds; 2. addition of "in *A Statement*" in the 3rd resolved; 3. Elimination of the definition of "anonymous Christian" from Point 1. A motion to consider Overture 3-57A as a substitute was declined. A request for a count revealed that the convention was indeed willing (by a vote of 498 to 497) to consider Overture 3-64A as a substitute. The time for further discussion had elapsed. When discussion was resumed in Session 9, a motion was made to amend Standing Rule No. 4 to allow each speaker one minute instead of two. The chair ruled that this motion had been passed by the required two thirds. The assembly by a voice vote declined the request for a count. The delegates asked to hear a report from the chairman of the Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Conciliation. After the question had been called, the convention rejected Overture 3-64A as a substitute for Res. 3-05 and then adopted Res. 3-05.)

To Declare the Synod's Position on Evangelical Lutherans in Mission (ELIM)

RESOLUTION 3-06

Overtures 3-40, 3-131A, 3-131B, 3-175—3-200 (CW, pp. 74, 102, 113—121)

Historical Background

On July 24, 1973, a majority of those who then constituted the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, issued a document entitled "A Declaration of Protest and Confession," which was signed by 49 faculty and staff members of the seminary.

This document made a number of allegations and on the basis of these, protests were lodged against:

a) The [New Orleans] convention's judgment that we teach false doctrine which "cannot be tolerated in the church of God."

b) The [New Orleans] convention's violation of the procedures for evangelical discipline clearly outlined in the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws.

c) The [New Orleans] convention's breach of contract in judging and condemning us by a doctrinal standard different from the doctrinal article of the Constitution (Article II).

d) The [New Orleans] convention's violation of the principle of *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) in elevating tradition above Scripture.

e) The [New Orleans] convention's use of coercive power to establish the true doctrine of the Scriptures.

f) The [New Orleans] convention's unconstitutional act of altering the Synod's confessional standard.

In the same document the signers stated: "We call upon our brothers and sisters to join in a *common movement* of protest and confession within the Synod."

At a conference held Aug. 28-29 and attended by about 850 members of our church body, "immediate and decisive action" was called for as "our Synod has reached a crisis point because of the New Orleans convention." It was stated that "We are in grave danger of sacrificing our evangelical heritage because of mistrust, and because of a desire on the part of some for complete conformity in interpreting every detail of the Holy Scriptures." An accompanying document (*In the Name of Jesus Christ and for the Sake of the Gospel*) charged that New Orleans Resolutions 2-12, 3-01, 3-09, and 3-12A were "errant actions of the majority at the New Orleans convention." It was also stated that "We declare null and void any attempt to make resolutions of men binding upon us."

In a letter addressed "to the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," dated Sept. 25, 1973, and signed "The Board of Directors, ELIM," it was revealed that an organization (ELIM) had come into being in Chicago.

It should be noted here that the Commission on Constitutional Matters has since ruled that New Orleans Resolutions 2-12, 3-01, and 3-09, to which the document addresses itself, were not unconstitutional (CW, pp. 206—207), and that Resolution 3-09 "rejects what has been referred to as a 'faculty majority position' rather than condemning the faculty majority members as teachers of false doctrine. Also, the doctrinal standard used to judge the "faculty majority position" was Article II of the synodical Constitution and not a "different" one (Res. 3-09, 1973 *Proceedings*, pp. 133—139).

Shortly thereafter an 8-page pamphlet (entitled ELIM) was circulated in the Synod which defined the ELIM symbols and which presented the organization's goals, specific objectives, programs, and services. *Missouri in Perspective*, a biweekly newspaper, was listed as a means to inform people about the issues in the church. The pamphlet called for financial support of the movement. Significantly, the stated goals and objectives are quite broad, similar to those of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as presented in Article III of the Constitution of the Synod.



Patience

The following examples indicate that ELIM is far more than a confessional movement whose prime purpose is to convince the members of the Synod that certain convention resolutions ought to be rescinded:

1. At a meeting held in Orlando, Fla., on Feb. 18-19, 1974, the agenda for which was entitled "ELIM, Evangelical Lutherans in Mission, Florida-Georgia District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," three significant resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That we adopt as part of the ELIM mission program the launching of an independent mission society;

Resolved, That we adopt the "Concordia Seminary-in-Exile" proposal as a part of our ELIM program for continued theological education;

Resolved, that we adopt the entire budget proposal for ELIM.

2. The independent mission society, "Partners in Mission," was organized May 10-11, 1974. "It will operate initially as a division of ELIM" (*ELIM News*, May 14, 1974).

3. On June 3, 1974, the Board of Directors of the Synod addressed a letter to the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod concerning several matters especially relating to ELIM. A 4-page "Position Statement of the Board of Directors on ELIM and Balance, Inc." was issued with the letter.

Section III of the Position Paper states the following:

WHEREAS, ELIM has begun an ingathering of funds, the purposes of which are to operate a Seminary-in-Exile, to fund an independent mission society, to issue publications such as *Missouri in Perspective*, and to fund an organizational structure to support these purposes; and

WHEREAS, These objects define in part a visible church here on earth and ELIM therefore becomes substantially a church within the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors, by this resolution,

advise the Synod that the Board views the activities of ELIM as being divisive within the church (cf. Article III, synodical Constitution), and has the potential for division of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board encourage all within the Synod who are involved in the activities of ELIM to refrain from any disturbance of the church or any improper attempt to take upon themselves the objects of the Synod.

In answer to the Board of Directors' warning and plea, the June 1974 ELIM Newsletter *Together in Mission* stated: "ELIM leaders have continued to assure the Synod that ELIM does not seek the division of the Synod. Our objectives are positive and helpful . . ."

Yet, at the ELIM assembly in August 1974 the general manager of ELIM stated in a published address: "Specifically, I am suggesting that we: . . . b) Ordain graduates of Concordia Seminary-in-Exile without looking to see what the reaction will be. Let them do what they will."

4. A part of carrying out the ELIM program for placement of Seminex graduates was revealed when the Oct. 16, 1974, *Saginaw (Mich.) News* carried an article announcing that "A Saginaw attorney has been elected to a position in the Michigan branch of Evangelical Lutherans in Mission. He has been elected placement director in Michigan for Seminex students." In a letter dated April 28, 1975, and addressed to the Michigan District President and certain circuit counselors, said "placement officer" encouraged that "consideration be given to calling a candidate from Concordia Seminary-in-Exile to serve as assistant pastor" in District congregations. A carbon copy of this letter was sent to the Placement Office, Seminex.

(It should be noted that the placement of graduates in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations is the sole responsibility of the Council of Presidents: By-laws 4.09 and 4.17. There are no less than nine references in the Bylaws which name the Council of Presidents as the Board of Assignments.)

5. On Oct. 17, 1974, in a mailing entitled "Urgent Notice" to all pastors and congregational chairmen of the Synod, the ELIM "Director for Development" wrote:

You and your congregation can be a part of a growing movement of people who say, "We will not support any institution which makes a mockery of justice, bypasses due processes, and tolerates inhuman and Godless acts.... The situation in our Synod is now of such nature that we must question whether it is deserving of our continued support." This statement was made in reference to the dismissal of the Rev. Dr. John Tietjen from the presidency of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

An accompanying letter dated Oct. 18, 1974, issued an appeal for financial support by way of giving ELIM a place in the congregation's budget and/or by individual donations. This letter states in part: "We are further dedicated to serving you and thousands of other people and congregations in continuing a soundly Lutheran theological training program, production of educational materials, domestic and overseas mission projects, and dozens of other activities so vital to the furtherance of the Gospel."

A recent appeal from the same source for financial support of ELIM was carried out in a mailing to pastors, delegates, and various members of congregations on April 25, 1975.

(Note that Bylaw 2.85 c 2, "Financial Duties," states: "The Board of Directors [of the Synod] alone may authorize the solicitation of funds by any person, board, commission, or agency in the Synod at large and shall have the authority to regulate the collection of funds from congregations and the Synod at large beyond the confines of any one District in accordance with policies adopted by the delegate convention of the Synod. There shall be no such solicitation of funds by any person, board, commission, agency, or corporation without the approval of the Board of Directors, provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to interfere with District or local financial undertakings where the collection of funds is confined to the District or a local area.")

6. Even more recent developments in ELIM include the announcement of the possibility of providing "for the exploration of a possible alternate form of teacher education in the Synod" (*Missouri in Perspective*, May 26, 1975).

The actions taken by ELIM during the past several years have been justified by that organization as being necessary expressions of their dissent against the actions of the Synod. Yet it should be noted that nowhere does the Synod condemn proper dissent, but rather makes adequate provisions for the same. Bylaw 1.09, "Relations of the Synod to Its Members," states that "While retaining the right of brotherly dissent, members of the Synod are expected as part of the life together within the synodical fellowship to honor and to uphold the resolutions of the Synod. If such resolutions are of a doctrinal nature, dissent is to be expressed first within the fellowship of peers, then brought to the attention of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations before finding expression as an overture to the convention calling for revision or rescission. While the conscience of the dissenter shall be respected, the consciences of others, as well as the collective will of the Synod, shall also be respected."

In view of these developments within our beloved Synod, the following resolution is herewith proposed.

WHEREAS, A democratic organization must always be open to responsible comment and criticism with respect to how it functions in carrying out its objectives; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is not only a democratic organization which adopts the principle set forth above but, of much greater importance, it is an organization of God's people, carrying out God's mission, and is therefore bound by the love of God to be open to responsible comment and criticism; and

WHEREAS, There may have been times in the past and there may be times in the future when those who would level responsible criticism within the Synod feel a need to gather together in an organization, the purpose of which is to coordinate many voices into one and to express their comment and criticism in a meaningful way; and

WHEREAS, An organization such as is described above must be dedicated to the principle that in its functioning, indeed in its very being, it must not become a competing organization, with competing or alternate pro-

grams to those of the Synod to which its members belong and which it seeks to strengthen and improve, for in such competition is the seed not of strengthening and improving but of weakening and of replacing; and

WHEREAS, Although the organization known as ELIM (Evangelical Lutherans in Mission) is not, per se, an organization to be condemned in that the opportunity for such an organization to be of service to God and His church is indeed great, nevertheless, the way in which ELIM has functioned since its creation has, in significant part, been in violation of the precepts set forth above, especially in its support of a competing seminary, its establishment of a competing mission program, its encouragement of congregations to withhold financial support from the Synod and to call uncertified men as pastors, and its announcement that it is interested in initiating an alternate system of teacher education; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, with great anguish and regret, declare that the way in which ELIM functions is schismatic and therefore in violation of the first object of the Synod: "The conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10) and a united defense against schism and sectarianism (Rom. 16:17)"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod declare that those members of the Synod (congregations, pastors, and teachers) who play active roles in planning and/or carrying out the schismatic functions referred to above are, by such active roles, acting inconsistently with their membership in the Synod, are failing to cooperate with the Synod, and are giving offense in their conduct; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod declare that individuals who hold positions with the Synod, with a District of the Synod, or with other organizations owned and controlled by the Synod who play active roles in planning, publicizing, and/or carrying out the schismatic functions referred to above are by such active roles failing to cooperate with the Synod and are giving offense in their conduct; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod request its congregations, officers, and boards to minister evangelically and pastorally with those under their supervision who play active roles in planning and/or carrying out the schismatic functions referred to above to the end that by such admonition they (i) cease such roles, or (ii) disassociate themselves from ELIM so long as it continues those schismatic functions, or (iii) in conscience terminate their membership in the Synod rather than to continue to act so as to divide and weaken it; and be it further

Resolved, That in the case of those officers of the Synod and members of the faculties of synodical institutions with whom patient and pastoral admonition has proven futile, appropriate action be taken on the basis of the synodical *Handbook*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod, for itself and for all its officers and boards, does again pledge that it is still willing to listen and discuss issues and grievances at all appropriate levels, that its actions and decisions shall be

open, honest, fair and evangelical, so that the Synod and all associated with it may carry out together the task our Lord Jesus Christ has assigned to His church on earth, to make disciples of all nations and to teach them to observe all things He has commanded us; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod, by the mercies of God, beseech all within its membership who have taken exception to actions of the Synod to follow our mutually adopted procedures for expressing their dissent, and at the same time honor our agreement to walk and work together in loving expression of our fellowship in Jesus Christ.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(In introducing this resolution the committee made several editorial changes as indicated in the Minutes. A motion to return to the two minute rule was declined as well as an amendment to include Balance, Inc., in those statements referring to ELIM as a divisive influence. Both Pres. J. A. O. Preus and Dr. C. Thos. Spitz were given a special opportunity to speak. Their comments are summarized in the Minutes. During the debate it was stated that those who agreed with the ELIM point of view would gather on the parking lot after action on this resolution had been taken. A motion to table the matter was declined. Before voting on the resolution the delegates were asked to join in silent prayer. The resolution was then adopted by a standing vote of 601 to 473. Debora Hage asked that a point of order be recorded in the Minutes. Following the singing of two stanzas of "I Walk in Danger All the Way," the chairman declared a 15-minute recess.)

To Utilize Women's Gifts

RESOLUTION 3-07

Report 3-01, IV, A, App. 3-01 I (CW, pp. 46, 57—63)

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Women has served the Synod faithfully; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Women has through careful investigation brought to the attention of the Synod through a report many valuable insights; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention rejoice that progress is being made in utilizing more fully the gifts of women in Christian witness, service, education, and contributions to policy making; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention encourage all congregations, Districts, and synodwide departments and agencies to examine their existing structures and procedures and to develop plans to make any necessary changes in:

a. personnel practices (hiring, promotion, salary, etc.), to conform with the Synod's personnel policies;

b. systems of nominating, electing, and appointing men and women to decision-making bodies, and methods of recruiting and selecting persons for full-time staff positions;

c. images and role models of men and women portrayed in church curricula, publications, and actual styles of operation;

d. language used in worship materials; and be it finally

Resolved, That all the people of God use all opportunities to put the gifts of the Spirit to work in their daily

lives, in the church, and in witness and service to others in the world.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Commend Task Force on Women

RESOLUTION 3-08

Report 3-01, IV, A, App. 3-01 I; Overtures 3-141, 3-146A, B (CW, pp. 46, 57—63, 106—107)

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod appointed a Task Force on Women at the direction of the 1973 convention; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Women has done valuable work in indicating those areas where the Synod, its congregations, and its agencies have not fully utilized the many talents God has given to women and have not adequately recognized the many services that they are already performing for the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod express its appreciation to the Task Force for its valuable accomplishments through its study of the role of women in the LCMS in sensitizing the church to the need for increased participation by women in the life of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force be continued for two years of further study and report to the 1977 convention.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(The convention substituted the above second resolved for the resolved presented by the committee, which would have assigned further study to the standing Social Concerns Committee of the CTCR.)

To Decline Division of the Synod

RESOLUTION 3-09

Overtures 3-41, 3-42A, 3-42B, 3-43, 3-44 (CW, pp. 74—76)

WHEREAS, Overture 3-43 alleges that the adoption of "A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles" has, in effect, added to the confessional standard of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Overture 3-43 calls for a division of the Synod on the basis of this allegation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod declare that the adoption of "A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles" does not add to or alter the confessional base of the Synod as expressed in Article II of its Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That we continue to trust the Holy Spirit's power to restore a God-pleasing agreement in doctrine and practice within the Synod, and that we decline all overtures which call for a division of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(The convention defeated a motion to refer the resolution to Committee 3 to reevaluate it and to present a revised version on Friday morning. It declined to divide the resolution into (1) the whereases and the first resolved, and (2) the second resolved. It also declined an amendment to have the final resolved read simply, "That we trust the Holy Spirit's power to restore a God-pleasing agreement in doctrine and practice within the Synod.")

To Decline to Rescind N.O. Resolution 3-09

RESOLUTION 3-10

Overtures 3-76A—3-81F, 3-84, 3-85, 3-86A—Q, 3-87A, 3-87B (CW, pp. 86—89)

WHEREAS, 1973 Res. 3-09 has been questioned through letters of dissent to the Synod's officials, to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, and to others and through overtures by congregations, conferences, and Districts; and

WHEREAS, Much time has been devoted to the study of N.O. Res. 3-09 by many individuals, conferences, and the CTCR (cf. "Report on Dissent," CW, p. 462); and

WHEREAS, Nothing affirmed in N.O. Res. 3-09 has been shown to be contrary to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, N.O. Res. 3-09 does not make judgments on individuals but on theological positions and teachings (cf. CCM Opinion, CW, p. 481); and

WHEREAS, Each member of the former faculty majority is free to state that the positions rejected in Res. 3-09 are not his personal positions; and

WHEREAS, Channels of dissent are provided for those who believe doctrinal resolutions adopted by the Synod are in error (cf. *Handbook* 109 e, and the CTCR report "Guiding Principles," CW, p. 468); therefore be it

Resolved, That those who continue to believe that the theology expressed in N.O. Res. 3-09 is contrary to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions be encouraged to present their concerns through the channels provided by the Synod for this purpose; and be it further

Resolved, That those members of the former faculty majority who do not hold the positions condemned in Res. 3-09 be encouraged to join the Synod in condemning these positions; and be it finally

Resolved, That the above-named overtures (3-76 A, etc.) be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Commend CTCR Position on the Historical-Critical Method

RESOLUTION 3-11

Report 3-01, I, Rec. 8, 9; Overtures 3-128—3-130B, 6-115 (CW, pp. 40, 102, 352)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has for many years given intensive study and discussion to the problems raised by any use of the historical-critical method in interpreting Scripture and has distributed the study document titled "A Comparative Study of Varying Contemporary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation"; and

WHEREAS, The historical-critical method makes decisions about the origin, nature, and interpretation of the Biblical literature on the basis of a historical reasoning

which by definition is a procedure unable to deal with supernatural intervention and operations; and

WHEREAS, The use of such historical reasoning in accounting for the origin of the Biblical literature tends to minimize the "connection between the Spirit and history" ("Revelation, Inspiration, and Inerrancy," p. 3, par. 9) and fails to take into account that in history the Spirit creates that which is not of this world; and

WHEREAS, The use of such historical reasoning not only obscures the Spirit's connection with the history of the Bible's origin but at the same time emphasizes the human factors in the production of the sacred literature in such a way that the Bible is virtually reduced to a product of merely human thought and experience; and

WHEREAS, Such historical reasoning, by accounting for the production of the Biblical literature chiefly in terms of merely historically conditioned responses to a series of needs and situations among God's people in the Old and New Testament eras and by regarding the Biblical literature as only human beings' writings, so tenuates the Spirit's authorship as to evaporate the unity of the Bible and to make inoperative the basic principle that the Bible interprets itself; and

WHEREAS, Such historical reasoning, which proposes that each constituent unit of the Biblical literature must be understood wholly in the light of its use through various states of oral and written transmission, negates also the principle that a Biblical text has only one meaning; and

WHEREAS, A view of the origin and nature of the Biblical literature which denies the unity of the holy writings and ascribes multiple meanings to a sacred text in effect renders the Bible useless as the absolute and final authority for all that the church does and teaches in God's name; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reject and repudiate as opposed to sound Lutheran theology and as injurious to the Gospel any view of the Bible and method of interpreting it which relates history to the production of the sacred writings in such a way as to diminish their "not of this world" character and to deprive them of their divine authority; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reassure its members that it still adheres faithfully to its historic position that the Scriptures are God's very own inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word for all matters of doctrine and practice; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod call upon its responsible officers to implement evangelically the provisions of the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws which were intended to assure that in all institutions under the Synod's control this position will be upheld and preserved; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod beseech the pastors, teachers, and congregations of the Synod, by the mercies of God, to continue to uphold the Synod's position; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod commend the study docu-

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Provide Guidance Concerning the Charismatic Movement and to Warn Against Abuses

RESOLUTION 3-15A

(Replacing Resolution 3-15)

Report 3-01, I, A, Rec. 10; Overture 3-150—3-153 (CW, pp. 41, 108—109)

WHEREAS, Some in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have become involved in the charismatic movement; and

WHEREAS, The abuses occurring within the charismatic movement continue to cause dissension in some Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has distributed a position paper, "The Charismatic Movement and Lutheran Theology," which evaluates the charismatic movement on the basis of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR is preparing guidelines for use by congregations who have individuals involved in the charismatic movement; therefore be it

Resolved, That in pastoral concern The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod warn its members about the abuses associated with the charismatic movement, such as

- a. An attitude of spiritual superiority which makes others feel that they are inferior Christians;
- b. A false ecumenism which shows disregard for true unity in all Bible teaching;
- c. A separation of the Spirit from the water in Baptism, which suggests that there is more than one baptism;
- d. Disloyalty toward the local congregation;
- e. A deemphasis of the means of grace; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod commend the position paper "The Charismatic Movement and Lutheran Theology" to its members for reference and guidance; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR be urged to complete its guidelines as soon as possible, release them to the church, and in view of the changing nature of this movement continue its study; and be it finally

Resolved, That when problems arise from the involvement of church members and/or pastors in the charismatic movement, brotherly counsel and guidance be exercised according to Scriptural principles.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Deal with Concerns About New Hymnal

RESOLUTION 3-16

Report 3-02; Overtures 3-255—3-260 (CW, pp. 63—64, 134—135)

WHEREAS, The Synod in Detroit (Res. 13-01, 1965 *Proceedings*) asked for the intersynodical preparation of a new hymnal and service book (see also Milwaukee Res. 2-04, 1971 *Proceedings*); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship has asked for adequate introduction of the new hymnal; and

WHEREAS, Some concerns have been raised in regard to the proposed new hymnal, pertaining to the criteria used in the selection of hymns and liturgical materials, the wording in the hymnal, and the method of adopting it; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the importance of a hymnal in the worship life of the church; and

WHEREAS, An undertaking of this magnitude should be given as broad a base of approval as possible; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship for the work they have done thus far and encourage them to continue to consider the various concerns expressed to them; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR in consultation with the Commission on Worship review the criteria used for selection of hymns to be included, as well as the doctrinal content of the proposed hymns and liturgical materials; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the Board of Directors of the Synod to provide the necessary funds to the Commission on Worship so that they can present to the congregations of the Synod the text of the proposed hymns and liturgy for review, study, and reaction; and be it further

Resolved, That before publication of the new hymnal, the Synod express itself in a future convention in response to the reactions from the congregations, the findings of the CTCR, the doctrinal reviewers, and the Commission on Worship; and be it finally

Resolved, That no further action be taken on Overture 3-259 (CW, p. 135) until after convention approval of the publication of the new hymnal.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Study Ordination, Call Procedures, and Nomenclature

RESOLUTION 3-17

Report 3-01, I, Rec. 12, 7-01, Res. 1; Overtures 3-136A—3-138B (CW, pp. 41, 104—105, 373)

WHEREAS, The term "ordination" is subject to ambiguities when used with reference to offices other than that of the pastor; and

WHEREAS, The question of the ordination of parochial

school teachers, directors of Christian education, lay ministers, and deaconesses has been under discussion in our church; and

WHEREAS, In recent years it has also become increasingly evident that there is growing confusion concerning the doctrine of the divine call and its application in calling pastors and teachers and in filling other offices; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations is presently preparing a report on call procedures and nomenclature; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod request the CTCR to complete its study on call procedures and nomenclature in time for consideration by the 1977 convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this study also include recommendations concerning the ordination of parochial school teachers, directors of Christian education, lay ministers, and deaconesses; and be it finally

Resolved, That the above-named overtures be respectfully declined at this time.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Encourage and Assist the Lutheran Church—Canada

RESOLUTION 3-18

Reports 3-01, II, A, Rec. 16—17, 4-14; Overtures 3-235—3-238 (CW, pp. 42, 184—185, 130—131)

WHEREAS, The Synod has urged the Lutheran Church—Canada to pursue the quest for Lutheran unity with the Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section on the basis of Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Canada reports progress being made in this endeavor as well as problems encountered; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod endorse the action of the Lutheran Church—Canada and pray that God will bless its efforts to achieve a greater measure of Lutheran unity in Canada; and be it further

Resolved, That the Lutheran Church—Canada be urged to exercise patient thoroughness in the pursuit of doctrinal unity with its Canadian Lutheran counterparts; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod ask the Commission on Constitutional Matters to indicate which changes would be necessary in the Bylaws of the Synod in order to enable the Lutheran Church—Canada to establish fellowship with the Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section should sufficient doctrinal consensus be achieved.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

("achieved" substituted for "discovered" by the floor committee.)

To Continue and Expand Conversations with the LCA

RESOLUTION 3-19

Report 3-01, II, G; Overtures 3-225—3-227, 3-229—3-232, 3-240 (CW, pp. 43—44; 128—131)

WHEREAS, Doctrinal discussions have been held with the Lutheran Church in America engaging the services of the Division of Theological Studies of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.; and

WHEREAS, Certain misunderstandings have arisen out of the document "A Statement of Concern" adopted by the 1974 convention of the Lutheran Church in America, which led the President of the Synod to request—and Dr. Robert Marshall, the President of the Lutheran Church in America, to concur in that request—discussions with a view toward removing these misunderstandings; and

WHEREAS, Doctrinal consensus sufficient for fellowship has not yet been achieved; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod express its appreciation for the doctrinal discussions held with the Lutheran Church in America and intensify these discussions with a view toward discovering doctrinal consensus sufficient for fellowship; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod through its President convey the Synod's concern over the document "A Statement of Concern" and press every effort to encourage the Lutheran Church in America to meet with representatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in order to remove misunderstandings arising out of "A Statement of Concern"; and be it finally

Resolved, That the President of the Synod keep the Synod informed concerning relations with the Lutheran Church in America.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Provide for Continuing Theological Education of Pastors, Teachers, and Laymen

RESOLUTION 3-20

Report 3-01, V, B; Overture 3-165 (CW, pp. 46—47, 112)

WHEREAS, Continuing theological education is of vital importance for the theological development of the professional workers of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, It is important that the laymen of the Synod become deeply involved in the study of important theological questions; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to coordinate the activities of the various agencies of the Synod involved in this area; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod assign to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations the responsibility of "fostering and providing for ongoing theological education through in-

stitutes, seminars, and other means" (Bylaw 2.109 b 1 ee); therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Synod, in consultation with the CTCR, provide for the coordination of the activities and programs of the various agencies and institutions of the Synod in the area of continuing theological education of pastors, teachers, and laymen.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Issue Study Document on Eschatology

RESOLUTION 3-21

Overture 3-149 (CW, p. 108)

WHEREAS, Today many people in the Christian church are taking a new interest in Biblical prophecy pertaining to the end times as evidenced by the popularity of books such as *The Late Great Planet Earth*, *There's a New World Coming*, *The King Is Coming*, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Historically during times of crisis people have been prone to depart from clear teachings of Scripture and follow popular apocalyptic movements; and

WHEREAS, Christians are asking about matters such as the millenium, the rapture, the revelation of the Antichrist, and other phenomena said to be associated with the "day of the Lord" and searching the Scriptures for answers; and

WHEREAS, We wish neither to be led astray by popular error nor to ignore God's prophecies about the end times; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention ask the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to prepare a study document dealing with the millennium, the rapture, the Antichrist, and other phenomena said to be associated with the "day of the Lord."

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Commend the Report "A Lutheran Stance Toward Ecumenism"

RESOLUTION 3-22

Report 3-01, I, Rec. 5; Overtures 3-147, 3-148, 3-243 (CW, pp. 40, 107—108, 131—132)

WHEREAS, Our interchurch and intrachurch relations have always been of deep concern among us; and

WHEREAS, The report "A Lutheran Stance Toward Ecumenism" offers to the Synod guiding principles and recommendations for ecumenical involvement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the position paper "A Lutheran Stance Toward Ecumenism" be commended to the church for study and response.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The committee substituted "position paper" for "report" and eliminated "guidance" from the resolved. These changes were filed with the Secretary.)

To Support Efforts to Protect the Unborn

RESOLUTION 3-23A

(Replacing Resolution 3-23)

Report 3-01, I, D; Overtures 3-163A—3-164, 8-09A—C (CW, pp. 42, 111, 399)

WHEREAS, The CTCR has studied the matter of abortion and prepared the report "Abortion: Theological, Legal, and Medical Aspects," which states that "Life is a gift from God . . . that unborn (nascent) life is of special value before God . . . and that life and death belong to the province of God"; and

WHEREAS, The Synod assembled in convention at Milwaukee, 1971, resolved that "willful abortion is contrary to the will of God" (Res. 2-39, 1971 *Proceedings*, p. 126); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has stated in its Social Ministry Affirmations, adopted in convention at Milwaukee, 1971, that "human life must be treasured, supported, and protected" and that "we encourage all people to avoid perverting God's will through such acts as abortion or euthanasia" (Res. 9-07, 1971 *Proceedings*, p. 191); and

WHEREAS, On the first anniversary of the opinion delivered by the Supreme Court of the United States which declared abortion constitutionally permissible under the terms stated, the CTCR repeated the Synod's position and protested the legalization of non-therapeutic abortions; and

WHEREAS, The Social Concerns Committee has been charged with the initiation of a life concerns program for various segments of the constituency of the LCMS and has conducted workshops on the subject of abortion at numerous colleges (schools) of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, In testimony before the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Constitutional Amendments, a member of the Synod's Social Concerns Committee noted that "while our denominational statements are explicitly theological . . . a constitutional amendment will help to safeguard the concerns of our constituency for innocent, defenseless life which has an intrinsic value and dignity beyond being 'wanted'"; and

WHEREAS, Through the process of proposing to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to protect all human beings, regardless of age or dependency, the people of our church would have the opportunity guaranteed under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its members, both corporately and individually, to speak for the un-

born and publicly to protest abortion on demand; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod urge its members to support efforts being made by members of the United States Congress and members of state legislatures to provide constitutional protection for all human life, including the unborn, that all might enjoy "the equal protection of the laws" and the rights of "life, liberty, or property" as guaranteed under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution; and be it finally

Resolved, That the church, under Law and Gospel, be sensitive to the dilemma of this human situation, which obligates the Christian community to deal pastorally with persons who have made or are making decisions under God which bear upon this important and crucial matter.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The floor committee replaced tentative Res. 3-23 with Res. 3-23A.)

To Endorse Plans to Hold Another International Lutheran Theological Conference

RESOLUTION 3-24

Report 3-01, II, A (CW, p. 42); N.O. Res. 2-30 (CW, pp. 434—435)

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Theological Conferences provide an important opportunity for us and our sister churches to develop a sense of international confessional Lutheran identity; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod participate in the forthcoming International Lutheran Theological Conference and encourage the Board of Directors to provide funds for this purpose.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Continue Participation in the Consultation on Lutheran Unity

RESOLUTION 3-25

Report 3-01, II, H (CW, p. 44)

WHEREAS, The Synod has been represented at the Consultation on Lutheran Unity since its inception; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod continue to be represented at the Consultation as heretofore; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod keep the Synod informed of the progress of these discussions.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Seek Theological Discussions with the LWF

RESOLUTION 3-26

Report 3-01, II, J; Overtures 3-245A—B, 3-247 (CW, pp. 45, 132—133)

WHEREAS, In accordance with 1971 Resolution 3-06 the Commission on Theology and Church Relations evaluated the Fifth General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation and published its findings in "Evian in Retrospect" in the 1973 *Workbook*, pp. 40 ff.; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR recommended that the Synod keep in contact with developments in the program of the Lutheran World Federation but that the Synod respectfully decline to make application for membership; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has indicated a willingness to carry on theological discussions with the Lutheran World Federation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod keep in contact with developments in the program of the Lutheran World Federation and encourage the President of the Synod and the CTCR to arrange for ways of promoting theological discussions with representatives of the Lutheran World Federation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod take no further action at this time.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Commend the Document "The Mission of the Christian Church in the World"

RESOLUTION 3-27

Report 3-01, I, A, 2, App. III (CW, pp. 39, 471); Overtures 3-155—3-158 (CW, pp. 109—110)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has made a study of the Mission Affirmations with the twofold objective:

1. To clarify parts that appeared to be ambiguous;
2. To supplement the document where needed in view of recent developments in Christendom pertaining to the understanding of the mission of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the report titled "The Mission of the Christian Church in the World" be commended to the church for study and response.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The Committee changed "guidance" to "response" and filed this change with the Secretary.)

To Review Social Ministry Affirmations

RESOLUTION 3-28A

(*Replacing Resolution 3-28*)

Overture 3-154 (CW, p. 109)

WHEREAS, Concerns have been expressed about the Social Ministry Affirmations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be requested to prepare a review of the Social Ministry Affirmations.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The committee replaced tentative Res. 3-28 with Res. 3-28A.)

To Commend the Document "The Inspiration of Scripture"

RESOLUTION 3-29

Report 3-01, I, 6; Overtures 3-125A—3-127 (CW, pp. 40, 100—101)

WHEREAS, The canonical text of Scripture is the authoritative Word of God for the church; and

WHEREAS, There is confusion and misunderstanding in the Synod concerning the terms such as canonical, canon, inspiration, inerrancy, authority, and revelation; and

WHEREAS, The document "The Inspiration of Scripture" prepared by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations correctly explains the above-mentioned terms; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend the position paper entitled "The Inspiration of Scripture" to its members for study and response.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The committee changed "reference, study, and guidance" to "study and response" and filed this change with the Secretary.)

To Commend the Document "Gospel and Scripture"

RESOLUTION 3-30

Report 3-01, I, Rec. 7 (CW, p. 40)

WHEREAS, The Gospel is the center of Scripture and the object of saving faith and the Scriptures are the source and norm of all theology; and

WHEREAS, The question of the relationship between Gospel and Scripture is a subject that has come under extensive discussion and debate within Lutheranism; and

WHEREAS, The document "Gospel and Scripture," prepared by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, enunciates the proper relationship, purpose, and

use of Gospel and Scripture as confessed in the Lutheran Symbols; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend the position paper entitled "Gospel and Scripture" to its members for reference and guidance.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The committee eliminated "study" from the resolved and filed this change with the Secretary.)

To Decline Certain Overtures Regarding the Council of Presidents

RESOLUTION 3-31A

(*Replacing Part of 3-31*)

Overtures 3-27A—3-29 (CW, p. 71)

WHEREAS, The implementation of Overtures 3-27A—3-29 would be impractical and cumbersome; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline these overtures.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The committee replaced tentative Res. 3-31 with Res. 3-31A and Res. 3-37.)

To Indicate the Understanding of the Word *Doctrine* in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

RESOLUTION 3-32

Report 3-01, I, A, Rec. 14; Overture 3-133 (CW, pp. 41, 103)

Resolved, That the Synod commend to its members for reference and guidance the statement of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations concerning the document titled "A Review of the Question 'What Is a Doctrine?'" the conclusion of which reads:

Conclusion

The Commission on Theology and Church Relations holds that the document entitled "A Review of the Question 'What Is a Doctrine?'" does not maintain that matters pertaining to the authorship of Biblical books and the historicity of certain Biblical accounts are outside the scope of "doctrine." Teachings and judgments on such matters ordinarily are not considered "doctrine" or "doctrines" in themselves. However, any teaching or judgment which denies or contradicts what the Scriptures teach must be considered "false doctrine." For such a denial or contradiction is in conflict with the doctrine of the authority of Holy Scripture, the only infallible source and norm of all doctrine. Moreover, the doctrine of the person of Jesus Christ is also involved in the consideration of any of His statements, including those which deal with isagogical or historical matters. In short, the commission holds that it is a doctrinal matter to contradict or deny whatever the Bible teaches on any subject."

Adopted by the CTCR, May 24, 1971.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The Committee removed "study" from the resolved after "reference" and filed this change with the Secretary.)

To Continue Study of Woman Suffrage

RESOLUTION 3-33

Overtures 3-139—3-140B (CW, p. 105)

WHEREAS, The Synod has stated "that Scripture does not prohibit women from exercising the franchise in congregational or synodical assemblies" (Res. 2-17, 1969 *Proceedings*); and

WHEREAS, The question of woman suffrage in some of our congregations still remains an issue; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations include the matter of woman suffrage in its continuing study of the role of women in the church.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The Committee changed the title from "To Discuss Woman Suffrage" and substituted "include" for "discuss" in the resolved and filed these changes with the Secretary.)

To Decline Designation of Official Theological Journal

RESOLUTION 3-34

Overtures 3-168, 3-169 (CW, pp. 112—113)

WHEREAS, The Synod at its 48th convention declined to establish either the theological journal edited by the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, or the theological journal edited by the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, as the official theological journals of the Synod (Res. 10-21, 10-22, 1969 *Proceedings*, pp. 152—153); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod continue the policy of not designating an official theological journal; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its official seminary faculties to continue to edit and produce these fine journals; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod encourage all its pastors, teachers, and congregational lay leaders to subscribe to, receive, and study these journals as means of mutual edification and concord.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Study the Inclusion of the Word True in the Intersynodical Translation of Luther's Small Catechism

RESOLUTION 3-35

Report 3-01, I, A, Rec. 13 (CW, p. 41)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has concluded that the matter of the inclusion of the word *true* in the intersynodical translation of *Luther's Small Catechism* deserves further study; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the CTCR to

complete its study regarding the inclusion of the word *true* in the intersynodical translation of *Luther's Small Catechism* and report to the 1977 convention.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline the Calling of an International Council to Produce a "Formula of Concord II"

RESOLUTION 3-36

Overtures 3-134A—3-135 (CW, pp. 103—104)

Resolved, That the Synod decline the calling of an International Council at this time for the purpose of preparing a "20th-Century Formula of Concord."

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Overtures Regarding Campus Pastors

RESOLUTION 3-37

(Replacing Part of 3-31)

Overture 3-33 (CW, p. 72)

WHEREAS, Campus pastors as a body have no official voice in matters relating to the doctrinal position of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Ample procedures for dealing with members of the Synod who express convictions contrary to the doctrinal position of the Synod are provided for in the synodical *Handbook* (Bylaw 5.11 ff.); therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline this overture.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Refer Concerns Regarding The Pastor's Companion to the Commission on Worship

RESOLUTION 3-38

Overture 3-262 (CW, p. 135)

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship be asked to study the need for updating the manual known as *The Pastor's Companion* and take appropriate action.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Avoid Needless Contentions

RESOLUTION 3-39

Overtures 3-25, 3-179, 3-199 (CW, pp. 70, 114, 121)

WHEREAS, Within the Synod there are groups and organizations whose actions and/or publications may cause division within the congregation, between congregations, and between congregations and the Synod; therefore be it

ment entitled "A Comparative Study of Varying Contemporary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation" to its members for reference and guidance.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

(New final wording "reference and guidance" instead of "information and study" was filed with the Secretary by the Committee.)

To Continue Evaluation of the Synod's Membership and Participation in LCUSA

RESOLUTION 3-12

Reports 3-01, II, I; 3-04; Overtures 3-201A—3-209 (CW, pp. 45, 65, 122—124); N.O. Res. 2-39 (CW, p. 436)

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board of Directors is of the opinion that at the present moment in history the Synod may well regard its participation in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. as an investment in inter-Lutheran relationships; and

WHEREAS, There is evidence of advantages accruing to the Synod through this membership; and

WHEREAS, Through careful selection of programs and services the Board of Directors has effected substantial reductions in the Synod's financial commitment; and

WHEREAS, The services and programs presently provided and proposed are under continuing scrutiny and review to determine what is in the best interest of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Theological Studies continues to be a forum for ongoing theological discussions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS continue membership in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. on a selected program basis in an effort to achieve its original objectives of membership; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod's Board of Directors and through them all boards and commissions be directed to keep the programs and activities in the Council under continuing scrutiny in order to determine those programs in which the Synod should participate, basing their judgment on such criteria as the effect on the Synod's doctrinal position, compatibility with the Synod's fellowship principles, economic feasibility, and contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod request the Council to intensify efforts to "seek to achieve theological consensus in a systematic and continuing way on the basis of Scripture and the witness of the Lutheran Confessions" (LCUSA Constitution, Art. IV); and be it finally

Resolved, That the study of the Lutheran Council requested in 1971 Resolution 3-18 be completed at a very early date, and that findings be reported to the Synod prior to the 1977 convention.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

(The convention declined to change "selected" to "full" in the first resolved.)

To Intensify Doctrinal Discussions with the ALC

RESOLUTION 3-13A

(Replacing Resolution 3-13)

Reports 3-01, II, B; 3-05; Overtures 3-131A—3-131B, 3-211A—3-222, 3-231A—3-231B, 3-240 (CW, pp. 42—43, 66, 102, 124—129, 131)

WHEREAS, Fellowship with The American Lutheran Church continues to be a source of joy to some, anguish to others, and concern for all; and

WHEREAS, Doctrinal differences continue to agitate and are the continuing concern of the ALC and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Commission on Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Currently the Synod is giving primary attention to problems within the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod's representatives on the ALC-LCMS Commission on Fellowship intensify their efforts to resolve the doctrinal differences with the ALC; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod's representatives on the Commission on Fellowship prepare a detailed report for the 1977 convention as to what progress has or has not been made in resolving the differences in doctrine and practice that do exist between The American Lutheran Church and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and recommend to that convention possible further action; and be it finally

Resolved, That no other action be taken at this time.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Declare Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany

RESOLUTION 3-14

Report 3-01, II, C (CW, p. 43); N.O. Res. 2-31 (CW, p. 435)

WHEREAS, Three Lutheran Free churches in Germany formed the new Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church) in 1972; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has for many years enjoyed altar and pulpit fellowship with these three Lutheran Free churches; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in gratitude to God officially declare itself to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche, thereby continuing the fellowship it has enjoyed for many years with the member bodies of the new church.

Resolved, That the Synod in convention call upon all such groups and organizations to remember and abide by the statement of our Lutheran Confessions:

On this point we have reached a basic and mutual agreement that we shall at all times make a sharp distinction between needless and unprofitable contentions (which since they destroy rather than edify, should never be allowed to disturb the church) and necessary controversy (dissension concerning the articles of the creed, or the chief parts of our Christian doctrine, when the contrary error must be refuted in order to preserve the truth). (*Book of Concord*, Tappert ed., pp. 506—577)

and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention also caution all such groups and organizations to examine their purposes and actions so that they may truly edify the church, be in accord with the primary objects of the Synod, and that we as people of God and as congregations may "walk together" under Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

4. ADMINISTRATION

To Transfer Congregations

RESOLUTION 4-01

Overtures 4-16—4-20 (CW, pp. 185—186); 4-83U, 4-84U (TB, pp. 16—17)

WHEREAS, The transfers of these congregations have been approved by both the transferring and the receiving Districts or their responsible officials; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod authorize the transfer of: Chapel of the Cross, Milwaukee, Wis., from the English to the South Wisconsin District; Trinity, Hammond, Ind., from the English to the Indiana District; St. John's, Onarga, Ill., from the Northern Illinois to the Central Illinois District; First, Charlotte, Mich., from the English to the Michigan District; Trinity, Masaryktown, Fla., from the SELC to the Florida-Georgia District; Faith, Greenfield, Ind., from the English to the Indiana District; Trinity, Hudson, Wis., from the North Wisconsin to the Minnesota South District; Sherman Park, Milwaukee, Wis., from the South Wisconsin to the English District.

Action: Adopted (2).

(The Committee added Trinity, Hudson's, request to the list in presenting Res. 4-01. After the convention had decided not to amalgamate English District members with the respective geographical Districts, the committee withdrew Res. 4-23 and suggested that Sherman Park's request for a transfer be added to Res. 4-01. The convention gave formal approval to this suggestion in Session 11.)

To Dissolve English District

RESOLUTION 4-02A

(Replacing Res. 4-02)

Report 4-04, III, L (CW, p. 139); N.O. Res. 4-41 (CW, p. 439); Overtures 4-22A—4-32 (CW, pp. 186—189)

Preamble

The Convention Committee on Administration, in considering the serious question which was laid before it by the church, is cognizant of the far-reaching implications of its decisions, and the consequences of its actions on the life and well-being of the members of Christ's Church. It further recognizes that its decisions must strengthen and support the total structure of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and contribute to its future success and progress. We therefore humbly and sincerely assure all those affected by our judgments and actions of our sincere concern as fellow members of the body of Christ, and of the love which believers must always demonstrate to their fellow redeemed. It is in this spirit of submission to the Spirit's guidance that we present the following.

The historical relationship of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its English District is a long and interesting one. At the encouragement of our synodical leaders three congregations organized to form the English Evangelical Lutheran Conference of Missouri in



Harold Hecht, President of the English District

1872, which grew into the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri and Other States in 1888. In 1905 the Missouri Synod established a committee to confer with the English Synod so that further understanding between the two Synods could be achieved. Closer ties were desired, and the Missouri Synod adopted a resolution in 1908 declaring that union with the English Synod was desirable. This culminated in the 1911 convention.

At the 1911 convention the English Synod became the Missouri Synod's "English District." The Articles of Union began as follows:

Resolved, That we regard it as most expedient and as most salutary for both parties to this union if individual congregations of the English Synod *join the respective District* of our Synod, and that we entertain the hope that *this end may be reached in the very near future*.

Resolved, That whereas this mode of union cannot be adopted at the present time, we nevertheless receive our English sister Synod as a District.

For the first time in its history the Missouri Synod had established a "language District," not as a permanent arrangement but as an interim or temporary measure.

In view of these beginnings, it is not at all surprising that overtures came to the floor of the Missouri Synod conventions proposing amalgamation of the English District into the geographical Districts as early as 1923—only 12 years after the original union. When the Missouri Synod dealt with this memorial, it adopted the following resolution:

Since all Districts of Synod are becoming more and more English in their work, we do not deem it wise to reject said memorial outright, but believe this proposal should come from the English District and therefore ask it kindly to discuss the matter.

It is probably from this resolution that the myth has arisen that the initiative for amalgamation must come from the English District. This "gentleman's suggestion" was not a part of the original 1911 resolutions. There is no evidence anywhere that the prerogative of amalgamation belongs to the English District rather than to the Synod.

An amalgamation resolution was actually adopted at the 1935 synodical convention, which said:

WHEREAS, The matter of amalgamation has been before Synod and has been thoroughly discussed repeatedly ever since 1923; therefore your committee is of the opinion that the time for the amalgamation of the congregations of the English District with other Districts has fully arrived and that such amalgamation will be most expedient and salutary for both the English District and for other Districts of Synod. Your committee therefore recommends that the President of Synod appoint a committee to confer with duly appointed representatives of the English District and work out with them an equitable and profitable solution of the whole question to the end that the amalgamation, if possible, be accomplished by the next convention in 1938.

Although it was adopted, nothing happened. Implementation simply bogged down.

Attempts to effect amalgamation were made in the synodical conventions of 1950, 1953, and 1956, and committees were appointed by the general Synod and by the English District to accomplish this end, but without success. At the 1973 New Orleans convention, Resolution 4-41, which was not acted on because of the expiration of convention time, again called for the assimilation of the English District congregations into the geographical Districts. This same issue now faces the delegates of this 1975 convention.

WHEREAS, The English District in its earlier years fulfilled an important need and rendered valuable service to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the formation of the English District, namely English language work, has been long since fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, There has, for many years, been a vast duplication of program, administration, and funding by the English District and the geographical Districts; and

WHEREAS, The amalgamation of the English District congregations with the geographic Districts has been proposed to the Synod in convention many times and has been under detailed study; and

WHEREAS, The 1973 convention again initiated such an amalgamation proposal, Resolution 4-41, and took action by referring it to the Board of Directors in the Omnibus Resolution; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors adopted the following resolution with respect to the "Assimilation of the English District":

WHEREAS, Resolution 4-41 of the New Orleans convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was not acted upon by the Synod in 1973 for lack of time and was referred under Omnibus Resolution 4-47 to the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, This resolution (4-41) deals with a matter of such importance that it should be considered by the Synod in convention and not by the Board of Directors; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors resubmit Resolution 4-41 to the 51st convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which is to meet at Anaheim, Calif., July 4—11, 1975;

and

WHEREAS, In a later action the Board of Directors proposed that this question be referred to a task force to study all Districts; and

WHEREAS, It appears that the question of nongeographic Districts must be resolved before a study of all Districts is practical; and

WHEREAS, All the requirements of Bylaw 3.03 c, pertaining to the dissolution of Districts, have been fulfilled; therefore be it

Resolved, That the English District be dissolved, effective July 15, 1976; and be it further

Resolved, That every congregation, pastor, and teacher in membership with the English District as of July 15, 1976, be assigned on that date to the respective geographical District in which such is located or resides; and be it further

Resolved, That all matters relating to the dissolution of the English District, including but not limited to the corporate status, real and personal property, and the Church Extension Fund, shall be coordinated by the synodical Board of Directors and that these matters be completed by July 15, 1976; and be it further

Resolved, 1. That all members of the English District be encouraged to respond positively and cooperatively to this resolution of the Synod, and 2. That all members of the English District be encouraged to continue to serve their Lord by giving loyal service and support to the proclamation of the Gospel through their respective geographic Districts; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod declare its gratefulness to God for the services the English District has rendered to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as well as for its faithful mission endeavors for the past 100 years.

Action: Not carried.

Minority Proposal

The following members of Committee 4 are grateful for the permission to submit the following proposal: L. Lloyd Behnken, Leonard C. Glaser, John M. Haffenreffer, R. A. Jagels, Arthur Nordstrom, Jay Pfothenauer, Henry E. Simon.

WHEREAS, Intensive study has revealed that the matter of amalgamation of the congregations of the English District has wide-ranging, time-requiring, complex factors which need much more prayerful, careful, expert, and unpressured study; and

WHEREAS, This convention has ordered a task force to study the total synodical structure, including possible revision of District lines and possible merging of Districts; and

WHEREAS, This is an administrative matter, and not doctrinal, and therefore has no Scriptural imperative which demands action at this convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the question of the amalgamation of English District congregations be referred by this convention to the ad hoc committee; and be it finally

Resolved, That this matter be given high priority on said ad hoc committee's agenda, with recommendation for specific action by the Synod's 1977 convention.

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 4-02 with Res. 4-02A. Attention was also called to a minority proposal prepared by seven members of the floor committee. Mr. Philip Draheim, legal counsel for the Synod, read a position paper of the Board of Directors outlining a suggested procedure in solving any disagreement which might occur if the convention should adopt the resolution for the dissolution of the English District and the English District should feel compelled to oppose this action of the convention. Because of the procedures that would be involved the target date was changed by formal motion from Jan. 15, 1976, to July 15, 1976. The delegates formally approved the distribution of this position paper to the convention. A statement of the English District had also been distributed earlier by permission of the chair. English District president Harold Hecht addressed the convention. A motion to consider Overture 4-31 as a substitute for Res. 4-02A was declined by the floor. A motion to consider the Minority Proposal as a substitute for Res. 4-02A was declined by a standing vote of 473 to 517. Time for debate was extended for another 30 minutes. When the question was successfully called during that time, the chair placed the question for a voice vote and then declared that Res. 4-02A had failed to carry. There was no request for a division of the house or for a count.)

To Combat Racism

RESOLUTION 4-03A

(Replacing Resolution 4-03)

Overture 4-78 (CW, p. 200)

WHEREAS, The church is in mission and ministry to man and his totality; and

WHEREAS, Pastors are called into parishes to equip the church and its people through the Word for every work that is good; and

WHEREAS, Racism is a sin, completely contrary to God's Word; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord challenges His people to love one another even as He has loved us; and

WHEREAS, Many positive actions have been taken in the Synod, Districts, and on local levels to sensitize our members to the continuing racist attitudes and behavior; and

WHEREAS, At New Orleans the Synod approved the promotion of an equal opportunity policy which was to be implemented by an affirmative action effort in its employment and business practices in all its departments, its Districts, and in all synodically controlled agencies and institutions; and

WHEREAS, In spite of all our Christian resolves and attempts to combat racism the church has fallen short of its objectives; therefore be it

Resolved, That we take to heart the reality of the situation and determine to make things happen in this area in the following manner:

1. That each pastor in the Synod search his heart and mind to determine his innate prejudices toward other races, especially since he may be unaware of his own racial attitudes;

2. That he confess this sin before God and seek His forgiveness and that under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit in his sermonizing and by leadership predicated on the Word, he equip God's people to affirm the worth and the value of people of all races; and

3. That he himself, together with the equipped people

of his parish, construct and implement Christ-centered creative interpersonal programs for attitudinal changes in an effort to banish racism from the church and society; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief be commended for its commitment to update its outreach, and to seek to incorporate projected advances within the limits of existing budgetary allocations; and be it finally

Resolved, That we commend the Board of Directors for its commitment to affirmative action and acknowledge its appointment of the Director of Personnel as the Affirmative Action Officer.

Action: Referred back to the committee (3).

To Combat Racism

RESOLUTION 4-03B

(Replacing Resolution 4-03A)

Overture 4-78 (CW, p. 200)

Jesus Christ, who is Lord, challenges His people to love one another even as He loves them, and through His loving presence in His church through Word and sacrament He empowers His people to meet this challenge. Christ's church calls pastors, teachers, and other full-time workers to equip God's saints for their ministry and witness to Christ. This is especially important in the living of the Christian life of love as it affects relationships with other people both within and without racial and ethnic groups. Many positive actions have been taken in Synod, Districts, and congregations to sensitize God's people to the continued existence of racist attitudes and behavior. The New Orleans convention approved an equal-opportunity policy to be implemented by an affirmative-action effort in its employment and business practices in all its departments, its Districts, and all synodically controlled agencies and institutions. Penitently, God's people admit that the desired objectives have not all been met, in spite of signs of progress under the blessing of God's Spirit. So that serious efforts to make things happen in combatting racist attitudes can be put forth; therefore be it

Resolved, That each pastor, teacher, or other full-time worker of the Synod seek by God's grace to determine his innate prejudices and become more keenly aware of his own racial attitudes, confess this sin, and seek God's forgiveness; and be it further

Resolved, That under God's Spirit in ministering to God's people he equip himself to equip them to affirm the worth and value of people of all races; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry be urged to develop a program for regional workshops to equip pastors and teachers and other full-time workers for leadership in effecting attitudinal and programatic changes in their parishes and communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be urged to

provide the sum of \$15,000 to enable the Board of Social Ministry to develop these workshops; and be it further

Resolved, That together God's people seek to construct and implement in congregations Christ-centered interpersonal programs for such changes, seeking to banish racism from the church and society; and be it finally

Resolved, That we commend the Board of Directors for its commitment to affirmative action and acknowledge its appointment of the Director of Personnel as the Affirmative Action Officer.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 4-03 with Res. 4-03A, which was debated in Session 2. The delegates substituted "member" for "pastor" in the first resolved. Since this would require further changes, the Secretary was asked to recast the paragraphs of the first resolved. The convention also decided to insert "we ask" into each of the numbered paragraphs and approved an amendment to substitute for the last two resolves of Res. 4-03 the two resolves under No. 3 of Overture 4-78. Time ran out. Discussion was resumed in Session 3. When several other changes were offered as amendments to various portions of the resolution, including that section for which rewording had not yet been submitted, the convention referred this resolution back to the committee for editing and reconsideration. Although this reedited version appeared in *Today's Business* as Res. 4-03B, it failed to receive action before adjournment.)

To Decline to Make It Mandatory to Specify Reasons for the Termination of Personnel

RESOLUTION 4-04

Overtures 4-56A—4-58, 6-121 (CW, pp. 195, 353)

Preamble

Your committee observes some degree of misunderstanding and confusion in the overtures before us for action by the convention. It will clarify the matter somewhat if, in approaching these overtures, it is kept in mind that Bylaws 6.53 e and 2.12 c address themselves to not renewing an employment contract for nontenured personnel with the Synod; and Bylaws 2.12 b, 6.77 b & c, and 6.79 refer to an individual who either has tenure or who still has a period of time to serve under a contract with a specific term.

Your committee believes that the Bylaws are adequate and Christian in their provisions and procedures when they address themselves to the removal from office for cause of tenured personnel.

Your committee believes the Bylaws are adequate and Christian in their provisions and procedures when they address themselves to the removal from office for cause of nontenured personnel during the period of the contract.

As a committee we would recommend the adoption of the following as a statement for further clarification:

WHEREAS, It is possible, while not required, for an explanation and reason to be given for the nonrenewal of contract of a nontenured individual by the responsible officer or board; and

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the Synod's legal counsel that making it mandatory to provide explanations

and reasons for the nonrenewal of nontenure contracts could involve a substantial risk of litigation; and

WHEREAS, Quasi-tenure could be implied, unless a very extensive system were worked out to prevent this, if an individual could rebut the nonrenewal of a nontenure contract; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 4-56A, 4-56B, 4-57, 4-58 and 6-121 be respectfully declined.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Authorize Deficit Spending for Current Expenses in 1975

RESOLUTION 4-05

Overture 4-50 (CW, p. 193)

WHEREAS, The New Testament commission of our Lord is to go out and preach and teach the Gospel to everyone in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has accepted this challenge in its constitutional objectives; and

WHEREAS, The 1975 commitments of our Districts and predictions of our sundry resources totaling \$24,300,000 seem to be inadequate to cover 1975 basic needs to carry out the ongoing program of the Synod and are certainly not the expression of our Synod's worldwide outreach; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord has provided us with the financial resources to meet all His challenges; and

WHEREAS, The Synod remains our basic viable means of carrying out the Great Commission by both proclamation and demonstration; and

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Review Commission adopted a \$26,000,000 budget for 1975, allocating the additional \$1,700,000 as follows: \$250,000 for programing exclusive of Board for Higher Education and Missions, \$250,000 for Board for Higher Education, \$250,000 for Missions, \$200,000 for contingency and miscellaneous, and \$750,000 for cost-of-living and merit salary increases for workers retroactive to Feb. 1, 1975; and

WHEREAS, Steps are being taken to maximize the synodical income from the Districts; and

WHEREAS, The Stewardship Department has prepared materials and implementation for special offerings for synodical purposes, including other special programs; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Fiscal Review Commission instructed the Synod's Board of Directors to operate on a \$26,000,000 budget level until July 31, 1975, to report to the Anaheim convention on the level of 1975 giving, and to recommend accordingly the spending level for the balance of the fiscal year; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention at Anaheim authorize deficit spending, if necessary, to attain the \$26,000,000 budget level, but not to exceed \$500,000, the deficit to be amortized 20% per year, for current expenses during 1975 to meet the requirements of this budget as

the Board of Directors deems necessary; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors in conjunction with the Council of Administrators and a three-man subcommittee of the Fiscal Review Commission appointed by the chairman of the Fiscal Review Commission reevaluate the entire fiscal situation during September of 1975; and be it finally

Resolved, That we give praise and thanks to Almighty God for His grace and mercy in providing our church with the people and the means to continue to carry out His objective in His world.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Amend Bylaws for Budget Preparation

RESOLUTION 4-06

Report 4-12 (CW, pp. 181—182)

WHEREAS, The present timetable and method for setting the budget of the Synod is inadequate to meet the needs of the Synod and its Districts; and

WHEREAS, Developing a new planning, programing, and budgeting system requires time for reflection, development, and experiment; therefore be it

Resolved, That the present work program budget process, as detailed in Bylaws 9.13 c and 9.01 f be revised as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

9.13 Meetings

c. The chairman shall convene a meeting of the commission no later than 30 days after the beginning of the synodical fiscal year.

9.01 Budgeting Procedure

f. After the commitments for each year have been received from congregations and have been transmitted by the District to the synodical Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall propose a tentative income and expenditures budget for the next fiscal year for the consideration of the Fiscal Review Commission.

PROPOSED WORDING

9.13 Meetings

c. The Fiscal Review Commission chairman shall convene a meeting of the commission by June 1 of each year, to consider the proposed budget for the following fiscal year and to share ideas on objectives, programs, forecasts, priorities, and communication devised for the Synod and District boards of directors for their consideration in future fiscal and programatic planning and fund raising.

9.01 Budgeting Procedure

f. After commitments for each year have been received from congregations and have been transmitted by the Districts to the synodical Board of Directors, that board shall set the synodical budget after consultation with the Council of Administrators and the Council of Presidents;

and be it further

Resolved, That the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Bylaws for Budget Preparation, in consultation with the Committee for Reorganization, continue to review the

budgetary process and propose any necessary Bylaw changes to the 1977 convention.

Action: Adopted (3).

(The committee changed "will" to "shall" in Bylaw 9.01)

To Change Membership of Fiscal Review Commission

RESOLUTION 4-07

Overture 4-49 (CW, p. 193)

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Review Commission should include the best possible representation from the various Districts; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical Bylaws for Fiscal Commission representation be changed to read as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

9.11 Membership and Organization

a. The Fiscal Review Commission shall be composed of the President of each District (or his representative) and one layman not in the employ of the District. The layman and his alternate shall be appointed by the District Board of Directors for a term identical with that of the District President. The District may at its expense send additional nonvoting representatives to the Fiscal Review Commission meetings. The President, the Vice-Presidents, and the members of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall be voting members of the commission. The Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors, the Controller, and the Stewardship Counselor of the Synod shall be advisory members of the commission.

PROPOSED WORDING

9.11 Membership and Organization

a. The Fiscal Review Commission shall be composed of the President of each District (or his representative), one layman not in the employ of the District who is knowledgeable in financial planning and fiscal management, and one of the following: the District Treasurer, the District Stewardship Chairman, the District Stewardship Executive. The layman and his alternate shall be appointed by the District Board of Directors for a term identical with that of the District President. The District may at its expense send additional nonvoting representatives to the Fiscal Review Commission meetings. The President, the Vice-Presidents, and the members of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall be voting members of the commission. The Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors, the Controller, and the Stewardship Counselor of the Synod shall be advisory members of the commission.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Grant Authority For Utilizing Insurance Companies for the Purpose of Annuities And/Or Investment Purposes for the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers

RESOLUTION 4-08

Report 4-09, Exhibit J, 5 (CW, p. 179)

WHEREAS, The Pension Committee, composed of two representatives each of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans, has since 1969 recommended, and the Board of Directors has ap-

proved, improvements in benefits in the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers; and

WHEREAS, The Pension Work Committee in meeting its objectives of giving consideration to potential methods of further improving benefits has initiated a review of the various methods of funding annuities and/or investment possibilities through major insurance companies as more fully reported in the record of the meetings of the Pension Work Committee, Board of Trustees, and the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans during the 1974—75 biennium; and

WHEREAS, Although it is common that pension plan trustees may carry out their responsibilities by funding annuities and/or investing through insurance companies, no identifiable previous action with respect to the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers states that such may be done by the trustees of such plan; and

WHEREAS, Preliminary responses from insurance companies do indicate that there may be a potential for further improvement of benefits in the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Pension Work Committee be encouraged to continue its investigation and analysis of the methods of utilizing major insurance companies in the funding of annuities and/or for investment purposes; and be it further

Resolved, That if the analysis by the Pension Work Committee results in a favorable recommendation regarding utilization of contracts with insurance companies for the purchase of annuities and/or for investment purposes, the Synod assembled in convention specifically authorizes the Board of Trustees to take the necessary action to implement such recommendations and enter into the necessary contracts involved, and advises the Board of Directors of the Synod that such board may exercise its authority (to amend the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers) by amending the plan so that the Board of Trustees may take said action.

Action: Adopted (3).

(The convention declined an amendment to insert after "companies" in the first resolved the words: "some of which are owned and operated by minorities.")

To Recognize with Appreciation the Reports of the Administrative Units

RESOLUTION 4-09

Reports 4-02—4-11 (CW, pp. 137—181)

Resolved, That we receive and recognize with appreciation the reports of the First Vice-President, the Secretary, the Board of Directors, the Treasurer, the Controller, the Synodical Services Commission, the Board of Stewardship, the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans, the Board of Trustees for Trust Funds, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation. (Note: In Report of Treasurer, 4-05, CW, p. 149, paragraph 5, line 13, figure should be corrected to read \$22,813,663.)

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Assign Advance Editorial Commission to Division of Parish Services

RESOLUTION 4-10

Overture 4-77 (CW, p. 200)

WHEREAS, The purposes of *Advance* magazine are "to transmit information concerning the Synod's work and programs to the congregations, to assist congregational leaders in developing coordinated programs, and to enable congregations to share with one another successful methods of practical church work"; and

WHEREAS, Both synodical program department staff persons and field persons are appointed to the *Advance* Editorial Commission to develop policies for *Advance* magazine that will strengthen parish program planning in the ministries of education, youth, stewardship, evangelism, social ministry, and worship; therefore be it

Resolved, That the *Advance* Editorial Commission be assigned to the Division of Parish Services; and be it further

Resolved, That the *Advance* Editorial Commission cultivate and maintain such channels of communication with all the program departments of the Synod that the pages of *Advance* will reflect their best thinking and planning for the building of the parishes of the Synod as units of nurture and outreach with Christ's Gospel.

Action: *Referred back to the committee (11).*

(This referral action was taken by voice vote after the convention had adopted a third resolved: "That *Advance* be sent only to those who subscribe," and had declined to consider a substitute motion calling for the discontinuation of *Advance*."

To Terminate the Commission on Mission and Ministry in the Church

RESOLUTION 4-11

Report 4-04, V, B (CW, p. 144)

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has recommended the termination of the Commission on Mission and Ministry in the Church (N.O., CW, p. 171, IV; Other business, S. T; p. 172, V, Recommendations C; Anaheim CW, p. 144, V, Recommendation B); and

WHEREAS, The Committee for Reorganization supports this recommendation of the Board of Directors (CW, p. 213, 24, Res. 4-43, "Size of Boards and Commissions," third paragraph); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Mission and Ministry in the Church be terminated as of January 1, 1976 and that Bylaw 2111 and all other pertinent Bylaw references that govern this commission be rescinded

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Amend Bylaw 10.31 Dealing with Use of Certain Lists of Workers

RESOLUTION 4-12

Overture 4-66 (CW, p. 197)

WHEREAS, It is advantageous for the Board of Managers to have an official list; and

WHEREAS, This is also in the best interest of the individual enrollee with Pensions and Support; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 10.31 be amended to read as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

10.31 Official Lists

The lists of pastors, teachers, and professors appearing in the current records of the various Districts shall be the official lists for the purpose of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support.

PROPOSED WORDING

10.31 Official Lists

The lists of pastors, teachers, and professors appearing in the current records of the synodical Department of Statistics shall be the official lists for the purpose of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

**To Define More Accurately
Membership of
Church Extension Board**

RESOLUTION 4-13

Overture 4-62 (CW, p. 196)

WHEREAS, The New Orleans synodical convention resolved that the membership of the Church Extension Board shall be elected rather than appointed; and

WHEREAS, The resolution also determined that "this elected board shall include at least one member from the areas of real estate and finance" (Minutes of the Convention, *Proceedings*, p. 47); and

WHEREAS, The wording of this action as recorded in the synodical *Handbook* 8.51 (p. 176) may imply a slightly different interpretation from the convention resolution's intent; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical Bylaws be changed to read as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

8.51 Board for Church Extension

The Board for Church Extension shall consist of eight members—two pastors, two teachers, and four laymen—who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors after consultation with the synodical President. The Treasurer of the Synod shall be an ex-officio member of the board.*

*In Resolution 4-33, the New Orleans convention changed these requirements—the changes to become operative at the 1975 convention. The Commission on Constitutional Matters has ruled that in the 1975 edition of the *Handbook* this paragraph shall read:

"The Board for Church Extension shall consist of eight members—two pastors, two teachers, and four laymen—who shall be elected by the convention. At least one member shall come from the area of real estate and one from the area of finance. The Treasurer of the Synod shall be an ex-officio member of the board."

PROPOSED WORDING

8.51 Board for Church Extension

The Board for Church Extension shall consist of eight members—two pastors, two teachers, and four laymen—who shall be elected by the convention and

shall have an understanding of the Church Extension program and/or demonstrate an expertise in fields and areas closely related to Church Extension activities, such as knowledge of real estate management and financial planning. The Treasurer of the Synod shall be an ex-officio member of the board.

Action: Adopted (11).

**To Amend Policies on
Retirement and Further Service
of Staff Members**

RESOLUTION 4-14

Report 4-04, III, J; V, A (CW, pp. 139, 144)

WHEREAS, Milwaukee Resolution 4-46 was referred to the Board of Directors for study concerning retirement provisions of the Bylaws of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans Resolution 4-30, covering the board's recommendation on this matter, did not receive action by the convention, and the Board of Directors wishes to resubmit proposed changes in Bylaw 2.105; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following amendment to Bylaw 2.105 be approved by the convention:

PRESENT WORDING

2.105 Retirement Policies

a. The following retirement policies shall apply to salaried nonelective personnel of the Synod except as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws:

1. Each such person may retire at age 65 but shall be retired on the first day of the month in which his 70th birthday occurs.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.105 Retirement Policies

a. The following retirement policies shall apply to salaried nonelective personnel of the Synod except as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws:

1. Each such person may request early retirement under the applicable provisions of the Concordia Retirement Plan, but he shall be retired at the end of the calendar year in which his 65th birthday occurs. Any further service beyond this mandatory date shall be on a contract basis not to exceed one year in duration, upon being certified to be medically fit, and in no event beyond the year in which he attains the age of 70.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment. See also Res. 5-28.

**To Terminate the Commission on
World Hunger and to Transfer Its
Work to the Board of Social Ministry
and World Relief**

RESOLUTION 4-15

Overture 4-61 (CW, p. 196)

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors recommends the termination of the Commission on World Hunger, and the Committee on Reorganization concurs in this recommendation; and

WHEREAS, We affirm the need for continuing efforts in behalf of world hunger; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief already has a standing committee on hunger (By-laws 13.01—13.09); therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank the Rev. Martin C. Poch and the Commission on World Hunger for their services; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on World Hunger be terminated at the end of this fiscal year; and be it finally

Resolved, That the work of the Commission on World Hunger be transferred to the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief.

Action: *Adopted (13).*

To Respect the Right of Minorities to Answer Their Own Problems

RESOLUTION 4-16

Overture 4-44 (CW, pp. 191—192); N.O. Res. 1-25, 1-26

WHEREAS, The Synod continues to address itself to the various concerns of minority groups; and

WHEREAS, N.O. Resolutions 1-25, 1-26, and Denver Resolution 4-17 have been brought to the attention of the responsible synodical boards for implementation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod recognize the need of the minority community to answer its own problems; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod recognize the valuable contributions which minority groups can and have made in all ministries of the church and encourage all boards and commissions of the Synod and its Districts to use their talents at every level.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(The title was changed from "To Permit Minorities . . ." The assembly declined to consider Overture 4-44 as a substitute.)

To Reaffirm Denver Resolution 11-10: "To Use Services of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation"

RESOLUTION 4-17A

(Replacing Resolution 4-17)

Overtures 4-76A, 4-76B (CW, pp. 199—200)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation provides blessed opportunity for members of the Synod to assist the Lord's work through various types of gift agreements offered via the expertise of the foundation's leadership, opportunities that have provided capital now approaching the ten-million-dollar mark; and

WHEREAS, Denver Resolution 11-10 has set forth procedures for establishing District foundations; therefore be it

Resolved, That we reaffirm Denver Resolution 11-10 and respectfully decline Overtures 4-76A and 4-76B.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 4-17 with Res. 4-17A.)

To Promote the Full Stewardship Life

RESOLUTION 4-18

Report 4-08 (CW, p. 170)

WHEREAS, Our Lord Christ Himself and Holy Scripture generally stress that the Christian is to be a full-time steward in all areas of life; and

WHEREAS, Stewardship is often too narrowly identified as having to do only with money ingathering, an error that tempts especially when financial shortages loom; therefore be it

Resolved, That we call for a continuing emphasis by our Synod in general, and our Board of Stewardship in particular, to lead us in the cultivation of the full stewardship life.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Approve Supplemental Project Giving

RESOLUTION 4-19

Overture 4-51 (CW, pp. 193—194)

WHEREAS, The New Orleans convention of 1973 adopted Resolution 12-02 directing the Stewardship Department of the Synod "To Develop and Promote Supplemental Project Giving" as a regular and viable program of the Synod for maximizing its mission and ministry resources; and

WHEREAS, Such a program has been developed by the Stewardship Department; therefore be it

Resolved, That this program be herewith approved and commended for implementation; and be it further

Resolved, That all interested individuals, groups, and eligible congregations be encouraged to participate *over and above* their regular support of the Synod's mission and ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the Treasurer's and Stewardship Departments develop appropriate procedures for processing such gifts that the donor will be assured his money is used for his intended purpose as promptly as feasible; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregational, District, and the Synod leaders lend their full support to this program and heartily promote it at all respective levels of the church.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Encourage Further Research into Supplemental Funding

RESOLUTION 4-20

Report 4-13 (CW, p. 182—184)

WHEREAS, The report of the Ad Hoc Committee to

Study Supplemental Funding, ordered by the New Orleans convention (Res. 12-01), speaks favorably of supplemental funding; and

WHEREAS, Said report lists important considerations that suggest moving in this direction; and

WHEREAS, Full implementation, as visualized by the ad hoc committee, would require substantial financial support; therefore be it

Resolved, In view of the financial straits of the Synod's treasury, that no funding be made available at this time; and be it further

Resolved, That the whole matter of supplemental funding be referred to the Board of Stewardship for further study and recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Abolish District Subcommittees of Board of Managers

RESOLUTION 4-21

Overtures 4-68, 4-69 (CW, pp. 197—198)

WHEREAS, District subcommittees of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support no longer serve a useful purpose; therefore be it

Resolved, That District subcommittees of the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support be abolished; and be it further

Resolved, That the applicable Section 10.29 be deleted from the *Handbook* of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That Section 10.27 of the *Handbook* be correspondingly amended as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

10.27 Application for Support

Each application for support shall be addressed to the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support and shall before approval be investigated and endorsed by the subcommittee of the District in which the applicant was living at the time when support was applied for. The board may, however, ask the subcommittee of the District to which the applicant has moved to process the application.

PROPOSED WORDING

10.27 Application for Support

Each application for support shall be addressed to the Board of Managers—Pensions and Support and shall before approval be properly investigated and evaluated by the Board.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Transfer Trinity, Hudson, Wis., to Minnesota South

RESOLUTION 4-22

Overture 4-84U (TB, p. 17)

WHEREAS, Trinity, Hudson, Wis., has not received the

approval of the transferring District, the North Wisconsin District, or the receiving District, the Minnesota South District; therefore be it

Resolved, That we decline Overture 4-84U and encourage Trinity Congregation to consult with the Districts involved.

Action: Withdrawn (See Res. 4-01)

To Delay Response on Transfer of Sherman Park, Milwaukee

RESOLUTION 4-23

Overture 4-15 (CW, p. 185); 4-85U (TB, p. 17)

WHEREAS, It has been proposed that the English District be dissolved; therefore be it

Resolved, That we delay our response to Overture 4-15 until the question of dissolution has been resolved.

Action: Withdrawn by the committee (11). See Res. 4-01.

To Explore the Question of the Southwest District

RESOLUTION 4-24A

(Replacing Res. 4-24)

Overture 4-34 (CW, p. 190)

WHEREAS, We recognize and commend the efforts of the Phoenix Area Council in evaluating the mission potential in their area; and

WHEREAS, We wish to encourage them to continue their efforts which are necessary and helpful for the advancement of the work of the Kingdom; therefore be it

Resolved, That we urge the Southern California District in consultation with the English District and the synodical Board for Missions and staff to call a director of mission development to thoroughly explore the State of Arizona and surrounding area; and be it further

Resolved, That the study materials for the proposed Southwest District be referred to the Task Force on Organization (cf. Res. 5-01A) study of all Districts.

Action: Adopted as amended (13).

(Amendment: inclusion of English District.)

To Approve Social Ministry Sunday

RESOLUTION 4-25

Overture 4-54 (CW, p. 194)

WHEREAS, The Synod's ministry to the whole man has been seriously hampered by a lack of funds; and

WHEREAS, This ministry is an important part of the Christian life; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief seek to coordinate the efforts of all social ministry agencies of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That in coordinating these efforts a special

Social Ministry Sunday be observed with the approval of the Board of Directors; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of the Synod be encouraged to support all such ministries with adequate gifts.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Request on Investment Philosophy and Policy

RESOLUTION 4-26

Overture 4-55 (CW, p. 194)

WHEREAS, The Synod pursues a policy of openness in all business dealings; and

WHEREAS, Records of sale of properties and other business transactions are readily available on request from the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The Synod is already engaging the services of professional investment counselors in selected instances; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Synod address themselves to the matter of conflict of interest, e.g., Bylaws 2.13, 3.37, 6.26, 11.13, 12.23; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-55 be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Help in Preretirement Planning

RESOLUTION 4-27A

(Replacing Res. 4-27)

Overture 4-74 (CW, p. 199)

WHEREAS, Twenty-one million persons, or one of every ten, in the United States have passed their 65th birthday and at least 300,000 members of our Synod are in this group; and

WHEREAS, There are some 1,900 retired workers of the church who did not benefit by preretirement programs; and

WHEREAS, The church by virtue of its commitment to "faith that works by love" is best equipped to provide preretirement planning services for its workers and members that will hold some promise of a more fulfilling retirement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry in cooperation with the Board of Parish Education arrange through the Districts for preretirement seminars for the laity of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Plans, the Board of Parish Education, and the Board of Social Ministry arrange for preretirement seminars for the professional workers of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the preretirement programs for the laity utilize local, District, and national resources wherever advisable, and that the programs for professional

workers be conducted cooperatively with other Lutherans where such cooperation is desirable and workable.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 4-27 with 4-27A.)

To Encourage the Use of Circuit Meetings

RESOLUTION 4-28

Overture 4-65 (CW, p. 197)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.91 requires: "The Circuit Counselor shall call a meeting of his circuit at least once each year"; and

WHEREAS, Circuit meetings help to facilitate formal and informal discussions, forums, education, and information concerning doctrine, theology, church relations, esprit de corps, District affairs, and synodical affairs, as well as pastoral and congregational concerns at the local level; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 4-65.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Make Pastors Emeriti Eligible to Serve as Circuit Counselors

RESOLUTION 4-29

Overture 4-64 (CW, pp. 196—197)

WHEREAS, The Circuit Counselor is an officer of the Synod and therefore must be the pastor of a voting congregation; and

WHEREAS, Circuits may well use the experience, aid, and assistance of retired pastors in other ways; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 4-64.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Urge Full Support

RESOLUTION 4-30

Overture 4-48 (CW, p. 193)

WHEREAS, The present system of channeling synodical funds through the District lends itself to closer ties between the District and the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the synodical convention respectfully decline Overture 4-48; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Synod be urged to support both the District and the Synod.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Commend All Officers, Boards, Commissions, and Committees Responsible to the Synod

RESOLUTION 4-31

Overtures 4-46A—4-47B (CW, pp. 192—193)

WHEREAS, The responsibilities of all officers, boards, commissions, and committees are clearly outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The problems and issues of the last biennium within the Synod have brought unprecedented circumstances demanding difficult decisions; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend the various officers, boards, committees, and commissions of the Synod for their efforts to bring about reconciliation during the past biennium.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Maintain Present Representation on Boards, Committees, and Commissions

RESOLUTION 4-32

Overtures 4-40—4-43 (CW, p. 191); N.O. Res. 4-36 (CW, p. 208)

WHEREAS, The Synod is primarily a federation of congregations; and

WHEREAS, Teachers, as well as pastors, may be regarded as professional members of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in its Bylaws adequately provides for lay, teacher, and pastor representation on its various boards, committees, and commissions; and

WHEREAS, Christian love would not limit representation to the various boards, committees, and commissions of the Synod to the exclusion of a minority group; therefore be it

Resolved, To respectfully decline Overtures 4-40, 4-41, 4-42, and 4-43.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Encourage Council of Presidents to Practice Economy

RESOLUTION 4-33

Overture 4-45 (CW, p. 192)

WHEREAS, Each District President, as an elected representative of the congregations in his District, is to set an example for the entire District he serves in stewardship of time and money; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents be urged to hold its meetings at central and economical locations.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Answer Petitions

RESOLUTION 4-34

Overtures 3-39A, 3-39B, 4-35 (CW, pp. 74, 190)

WHEREAS, The petitioners have not indicated that they have availed themselves of the adjudication process provided for them in the Bylaws, 5.01 ff.; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 3-39A, 3-39B, and 4-35 be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Note Previous Action on Buszin Memorial

RESOLUTION 4-35

Overture 4-81 (CW, p. 201); N.O. Res. 11-19 (CW, p. 449)

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Synod has already responded to concerns expressed in Overture 4-81; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline further action on Overture 4-81.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Deny Request for Lump-Sum Withdrawals from Pension Fund

RESOLUTION 4-36A

(Replacing Res. 4-36)

Overture 4-67 (CW, p. 197)

WHEREAS, Studies made of the benefit levels currently received by retirees show such benefits do not appear to be adequate to permit lump-sum withdrawals of the worker's personal accumulation at retirement without subjecting the Synod to the potential of providing support payments from the budget to help a retired worker or surviving widow maintain an adequate ongoing monthly income; and

WHEREAS, Permitting unrestricted lump-sum withdrawals from the Pension Fund on retirement would jeopardize tax-wise the interests of other participants and would result in possible loss of benefits; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-67 be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

(The Committee replaced its tentative Res. 4-36 with Res. 4-36A.)

To Decline to Make Minutes Available

RESOLUTION 4-37

Overture 4-59 (CW, p. 195)

WHEREAS, The implementation of this overture would

be impractical, cumbersome, and costly; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-59 be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Refer Protection of Congregation's Property Rights to Its District

RESOLUTION 4-38

Overture 4-79 (CW, p. 200)

WHEREAS, The problems raised in Overture 4-79 are many and diverse and vary from District to District; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-79 be declined and the petitioners be referred to the Board of Directors of the Colorado District.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Recognize Access to District Audits

RESOLUTION 4-39

Overture 4-52 (CW, p. 194)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.93 b 2 provides for receipt of audits from all Districts by the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The information gained by a synodical audit may not warrant the expenditure of funds for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, Congregations may request audit information from their respective District; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Resolution 4-52.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Note the Inclusion of "Extension of Membership" Provision in Survivor Plan

RESOLUTION 4-40

Overture 4-71 (CW, p. 198)

WHEREAS, Matters of extension of membership previously covered in the Concordia Survivor Plan book, Section 8.2, are covered in Section 6.1 of the new 1975 edition; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-71 be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Change the Synod's Name

RESOLUTION 4-41

Overture 4-21 (CW, p. 186)

WHEREAS, The name of the Synod has become associated with a firm confessional position in the theological world; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 4-21.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Hold the 1977 Convention in Dallas

RESOLUTION 4-42

Report 4-01

WHEREAS, The location of the 1977 synodical convention has not yet been determined by the Synod (Bylaw 1.39 b);

WHEREAS, The convention manager advises that about \$200,000 in savings on travel costs and about 20% savings on room costs could be expected if we were to hold the 1977 convention in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, The Texas District President has indicated a willingness to hold in abeyance the District's invitation to Dallas, Texas, for 1977; therefore be it

Resolved, That the invitation of the Texas District to hold the 1977 convention of the Synod in Dallas, Texas, be accepted.

Action: Adopted as amended (11).

(The resolution had originally read: "That the 1977 convention of the Synod be held in St. Louis." Designation of the site was determined by a vote of 493 to 388.)

To Review and Study Positions Relative to Finance

RESOLUTION 4-43

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board of Directors has been studying the reorganization of the Controller's and Treasurer's office and function; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable periodically to review and update such procedure and management methods; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's auditors, Ernst and Ernst, have encouraged such a review of staff responsibilities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors continue such studies and that it develop and implement such operating procedures in the next biennium as it deems efficient and feasible for the fiscal matters under its responsibility within existing Bylaws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors cooperate with and offer recommendations to the Task Force on Organization with regard to this matter; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors report to the next convention and propose such changes in the Bylaws as may be necessary.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

To Appoint Task Force to Study and Propose Revisions of Constitution, Bylaws, and Organization

RESOLUTION 5-01A

Reports 5-02, I, 4, 17, 25, App. 3-01, I, IV, B; Overtures 5-06—5-09, 5-11—5-12H, 5-16, 5-17, 5-19—5-21, 5-23—5-34, 5-36—5-49, 5-52, 5-54A—B, 5-56A—5-59, 5-66A—E, 5-69, 5-70, 5-107 (CW, pp. 62, 207—216, 218—233, 235, 236, 247); N.O. Res. 5-14, 5-15, 5-19 (CW, p. 442)

WHEREAS, Res. 4-43 (1973 *Proceedings*, p. 160), and Res. 5-28 (1973 *Proceedings*, p. 172) established a committee for Reorganization and also a "Constitutional Committee" to study the Constitution itself to determine whether possible clarification or additional articles are necessary, and to "study the Bylaws for clarification, better coordination, and simplification" and "study of the Synod's organization and structure"; and

WHEREAS, "Report of Committee for Reorganization and Constitution Review Committee" (5-02, CW, p. 207) indicates that they have been unable to complete the assignment in spite of numerous meetings during the past biennium; and

WHEREAS, The above-mentioned overtures, together with many received at past conventions of the Synod, indicate a need for such a study of the Constitution, Bylaws, and organizational structure of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The piecemeal amending of the Constitution and Bylaws without a thorough study of the polity of our church will further confuse the entire matter of government in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The above-mentioned overtures ask for either constitutional amendments or major changes in the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The report of the Committee for Reorganization and Constitution Review Committee requests the creation of a task force to complete the study; therefore be it

Resolved, That a task force to study and propose revisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and the entire organizational structure of the Synod and its Districts be created; and be it further

Resolved, That such task force consist of 21 persons, of whom six shall be pastors, three teachers, nine lay persons, and three shall be members of the present Committee for Reorganization and Constitution Review Committee, with no more than three members from any one District; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Synod shall place an appropriate notice in the September 1975 issue of the *Lutheran Witness* inviting each congregation of the Synod to submit to his office by November 1, 1975, the names of such pastors, teachers, and lay persons as they wish to nominate to serve on the task force; and be it further

Resolved, That the Council of Presidents shall appoint three persons, the Board of Directors shall appoint two persons, and the Council of Administrators shall appoint two persons who together shall be a committee to review all nominations received from congregations and shall prepare a list therefrom of not fewer than three persons for each of the pastor, teacher, and layperson positions on the task force and whom the said committee recommends for service on the task force, which list shall be submitted to the Council of Presidents, the Board of Directors, and the Council of Administrators; and be it further

Resolved, That from said list the Council of Presidents shall select six pastors and three teachers, the Board of Directors shall select six laypersons, after which the Council of Administrators shall select three additional laypersons, all of whom shall serve on said task force together with three members of the present Committee for Reorganization and Constitution Review Committee appointed by its chairman; and be it further

Resolved, That the selection of members of the task force be accomplished as promptly as possible and the names reported to the Secretary of the Synod, who shall convene the initial meeting of the task force, at which time it shall adopt its organizational structure and at which time the present Committee for Reorganization and Constitution Review Committee shall be dissolved; and be it further

Resolved, That in the event a vacancy occurs on the task force during its existence, such vacancy shall be filled by the task force from the list of persons submitted by the committee that screened the original nominations; and be it further

Resolved, That the concerns raised in the above-mentioned overtures be given consideration by the task force together with tentative recommendations of the joint Committee on Reorganization and Constitution Review; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force preserve the congregational polity of church government which has served our Synod in its history and avoid the centralization of power within the synodical structure; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force seek maximal involvement of the administrative units of the Synod and the Districts of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force be authorized to select and secure professional and clerical personnel and to select consultants in order to be able to complete its work for the 1979 convention, with a progress report to be given by the task force to the 1977 convention of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod appropriate sufficient funds to enable the task force to complete its work; and be it finally

Resolved, That the final recommendations of the task force for constitutional and bylaw revisions be sent to the

congregations of the Synod not later than 9 months prior to the 1979 convention for study and response.

Action: Adopted as amended (3).

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 5-01 with Res. 5-01A. Session 2 declined amendments to 1) add a new resolved after the 9th resolved, "That the confessional basis as stipulated in Article II be preserved"; 2) to delete "and its Districts" from the first resolved; 3) to add "from nine separate Districts" after "nine lay persons" in the second resolved. When discussion was resumed in Session 3, the convention approved the amendment to add to the second resolved the words "with no more than three members from any one District." It declined to strike the words "together with" and to substitute the word "reject" in the 8th resolved and to substitute "praesidium" for "Council of Administrators" in the last line of the 4th resolved and in the 5th resolved. The resolution was then adopted as amended. In Session 11 the floor committee added Overtures 5-66A—E as referrals to the proposed Task Force.)

**To Deal with District Presidents
Who Have Ordained or Who Have
Authorized Ordination of Persons
Who Are Not Properly Endorsed**

RESOLUTION 5-02A

Overtures 5-14, 5-15, 5-109, 5-110, 5-112—5-139E, 5-150A—5-152 (CW, pp. 221, 247—248, 249—258, 261—262)

Preamble

An introductory word regarding the matter of dealing with District Presidents who have ordained or authorized ordination of persons that are not properly endorsed.

Because we face an emergency situation in our Synod today in which certain officers in the Synod, and in particular certain District Presidents, feel that they cannot abide by those parts of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod dealing with the endorsement of candidates for the holy ministry, it is good to remember the necessity of church government and the careful distinction between the Power and Office of the Keys and human rites and ordinances in church government.

The need for church government arises from the need to do all things decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40), so that the Gospel can be preached and the sacraments be administered efficiently for the benefit of all. A part of this need is the necessity of training, electing, and calling only such men for the holy ministry that are properly trained and qualified, so that the congregations which make up a Synod or church can be assured that the men they install as pastors are qualified in every way. Such government, in the form and polity that exists, is of human authority and can be altered at human will. The Office of the Keys, that is, the authority and mandate to proclaim the Gospel and administer the sacraments, is on the other hand by divine right (Matt. 28:19ff.), and cannot be altered by human desire or will. Church government can change, but the Gospel and sacraments can never change.

While the desire to change government arises out of the human will, it ought to be motivated by the Gospel, and such change be made for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel and administering the sacraments. In the

process of such change of church government, it is most important to keep in mind such distinction between human right of church government and the divine right of the Office of the Keys. This distinction becomes essential and crucial, especially when change of church government is being motivated by the Gospel and for the sake of the Gospel, lest the Gospel become entangled with human ordinances. The Lutheran Confessions speak to this point when they say, "... according to the Gospel the power of keys or the power of bishops is a power and command of God to preach the Gospel, to forgive and retain sins, and to administer and distribute the sacraments" (AC XXVIII, p. 81:5). But concerning church government they say, "It is lawful for bishops or pastors to make ordinances that things be done orderly in the church, not that thereby we should merit grace or make satisfactions for sins or that consciences be bound to judge them as necessary services and to think that it is a sin to break them without offense to others" (AC XXVIII). It is thus necessary to always keep this distinction, so that the human ordinances of church government and rites never become a part of the Gospel and its proclamation, as if they were component parts of it.

Yet church government is necessary as a human aid for maintaining the unity of the Gospel and for the sake of love and peace. It is proper then, "that the churches should keep such ordinances for the sake of love and tranquility . . . that all things be done in the churches in order and without confusion" (AC XXVII). So we have on the one hand the command of God to proclaim the Gospel and administer the sacraments together with the divine origin of the holy ministry (Matt. 28:16-20; 1 Tim. 3:1ff), while on the other hand we have human ordinances in church government that guide us as to how this is to be done, in particular the training, endorsement, electing, and calling of men to the holy ministry. Our Lutheran fathers were very conscious of this, for they held, "It is taught among us that nobody should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call" (AC XIV).

The intent and purpose of the founding fathers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was to provide an orderly framework within which the task of preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments could be carried out in such a way that the purity of the Gospel be maintained, the unity of the true faith be promoted, and men be trained for the holy ministry (Constitution, Article III, 1, 3). Congregations were asked to ordain and/or install only such men who had a regular call, that is, men who had been endorsed by established synodical procedure and who, through accepted synodical procedure, received a recognized call (Constitution, Article VI, 3, 6; Bylaw 4.01ff.) When such accepted synodical procedure is not followed, not only is the image given that the Synod is confused and divided, but that the public doctrine of the Gospel taught by the Synod is being questioned. As a result the "weak in faith . . . will be scandalized; some will doubt if the pure doctrine can coexist among us with such divisions" (FC SD).

Certainly the Synod does not mean that by such divisions over human procedure for the training and

endorsing of men for the holy ministry its public doctrine of the Gospel is being questioned or denied. For that reason any change in the human rites and ordinances governing the Synod concerning the training, endorsing, and the calling of men for the holy ministry is to be carried out through proper procedures as outlined by the Synod in its Constitution and Bylaws. An emergency situation then exists when some within the Synod in public office, by action and declaration, suggest that they have not and will not abide by the regulations of the Synod concerning the placement and calling of properly endorsed men for the holy ministry. An emergency situation exists because orderly church government of the Synod is in danger of disintegrating, and the public doctrine of the Gospel taught by the Synod is in danger of being affected.

It is, then, in the fear and love of God and for the love and unity of the Synod that the following resolution is offered. It must be maintained, that for such love and unity to exist, all members of the Synod are urged to abide by the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Synod. Even when change is desired or necessary, this must still apply until such time that the Synod deems it fit to make changes.

It is with a prayer in our hearts that unity may soon again be a mark of our beloved Synod and that every official of the Synod will recognize that we must "walk together" in love as we all follow the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, that the following resolution is offered:

WHEREAS, The Synod has placed into the hands of the District Presidents the obligation of carrying out the mandates and resolutions of the Synod (XII 6, 9 a, 3.41) as arms of the synodical President in their respective Districts; and

WHEREAS, The Synod requires all officers for the sake of good order and for the protection of congregations and pastors to uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (XI A); and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Constitution and Bylaws require candidates for the office of the holy ministry to be endorsed by the duly constituted synodical process (XII 9 c, 4.15); and

WHEREAS, Certain District Presidents in 1974 and 1975, contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (XII 9 c, 4.01ff.), authorized the ordination of unendorsed candidates for the holy ministry; and

WHEREAS, It is the duty of the President of the Synod to see to it that all officers of the Synod act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and to use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of practice in all the Districts of the Synod, as stated in the Constitution, Article XI, Rights and Duties of Officers; B. Duties of the President:

1. The President has the supervision regarding the doctrine and the administration of—
 - a. All officers of the Synod;
 - b. All such as are employed by the Synod;
 - c. The individual Districts of the Synod;
 - d. All District Presidents.

2. It is the President's duty to see to it that all the aforementioned act in accordance with the Synod's Constitution, to admonish all who in any way depart from it, and, if such admonition is not heeded, to report such cases to the Synod.

3. The President has and always shall have the power to advise, admonish, and reprove. He shall conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the Districts of the Synod (XI B 1, 2, 3);

therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod declare specifically that the placement and ordination of candidates who have not been endorsed through the duly authorized synodical process violates the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Presidents be directed to uphold and abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Presidents shall ordain or authorize the ordination of only those candidates who are endorsed through the duly authorized synodical process; and be it further

Resolved, That a District President who has ordained or authorized the ordination of candidates for the holy ministry who were not endorsed through the duly authorized synodical process shall promptly do what is necessary to encourage and direct all of those persons who have been so ordained to become endorsed; and be it further

Resolved, That if a District President cannot in good conscience uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, which he has sworn to do at the time of his installation, and that if he cannot refrain from ordaining or authorizing the ordination of candidates for the holy ministry who have not received endorsement for ordination through the duly authorized synodical process, then the said District President, for the peace and the good order of the Synod, shall resign from the office of District President; and be it further

Resolved, That if any of said District Presidents does not resign, he shall be commended to the pastoral care and discipline of the synodical President, assisted by the Council of Presidents, for the resolution of this matter; and be it further

Resolved, That if pastoral care and discipline have failed to secure from a District President involved stated compliance with this resolution, or he has not resigned, the synodical President, after consultation with the Council of Presidents, shall inform the said District, at least 60 days before the beginning of the next regularly scheduled District convention, that a vacancy exists in the office of said District President and that the said District is to elect a successor for the unexpired term in harmony with this resolution and according to the said District's procedures; and be it finally

Resolved, That this convention assure each of the said District Presidents of its genuine brotherly love and concern and its desire to continue to recognize him as a Christian brother.



Emil Jaech after addressing the assembly

Action: Adopted (8).

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 5-02 with Res. 5-02A. When this resolution was introduced in Session 3, the chair granted permission for a privileged motion objecting to consideration of this resolution by the convention. However, by a vote of 602 to 444 the delegates agreed to consider the resolution. The convention did accede to the request to postpone consideration so that the Council of Presidents could address itself once more to this matter, with the stated understanding that the resolution would be brought forward for consideration in Session 7. At that time all eight District Presidents were given an opportunity to speak. The President, several Vice-Presidents, and other District Presidents were also given the privilege to speak. See the Minutes of that Session.

In Session 8 discussion was resumed. See Minutes. After another 30 minutes of floor discussion, when the automatic call of the question was placed before the assembly, it decided by a standing vote of 711 to 334 to terminate debate. In response to a question from the floor Pres. R. Rasmeyer of the Atlantic District informed the convention that the position of the eight District presidents had not changed. A request for a ballot vote was declined as was a motion to table the question. Resolution 5-02A was then adopted, 626-466. President Emil Jaech was granted the privilege of reading a statement to the convention. The delegates declined to have either negative or positive votes recorded in the *Proceedings* but asked that the statement of President Jaech be included.)

**To Clarify the Relationship of
the President of the Synod
and the Council of Presidents**

RESOLUTION 5-03

Report 5-01, II, F; 5-02, I, 10, 18; Overtures 5-140—5-146B, 5-148—5-150D, 5-153A—5-154 (CW, pp. 209—210, 258—262) and N.O. Res. 5-05, 5-21, 5-37 (CW, pp. 440, 442, 443)

WHEREAS, Overtures concerning the relationship of the President of the Synod and the Council of Presidents were given careful consideration by the floor committee of the New Orleans convention and a recommendation was presented in the form of Resolution 5-21, but not acted upon because of lack of time; and

WHEREAS, The Reorganization and Constitution Committee has reviewed Resolution 5-21 and recommends that it be adopted (*Workbook*, 1975, p. 209); therefore be it

Resolved, That the proposals of New Orleans Resolution 5-21 be adopted, which state:

WHEREAS, The District Presidents are historically the arms of the synodical President and responsible to him (*Handbook* 3.41); and

WHEREAS, The role of the Council of Presidents, as historically carried out in our church, would be one in which the Council exists in an advisory capacity to the synodical President, that the Council of Presidents would have the prerogative to offer suggestions to the President, and would assist the President in carrying out his duties, and would perform those duties which the Synod would prescribe from time to time and allocate to it; and

WHEREAS, Such functions of the Council of Presidents should be enumerated in the Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That the last sentence of Bylaw 3.41 be deleted, which reads: "The District Presidents, together with the President and Vice-Presidents of the Synod, shall form the Council of Presidents"; and be it also

Resolved, That a new Bylaw Section 3.53 be adopted as follows:

3.53 Council of Presidents

The President and Vice-Presidents of the Synod and the District Presidents shall form the Council of Presidents. The council shall meet three times each year and in addition at the call of the President or at the request of one third of the Council of Presidents:

- a. To enable the President to advise and counsel his representatives in the Districts;
- b. To enable the District Presidents in turn to give counsel to the President;
- c. To counsel with one another on matters regarding the doctrine and administration of the Synod and its Districts;
- d. To edify and support one another in the work they share;
- e. To carry out such assignments as the Synod may give to the council from time to time.

Action: Adopted as amended (6).

(The words "three times each year and in addition" were added by the committee and "or at the request of one third of the Council of Presidents" by amendment. The assembly declined an amendment to change "his representatives in the Districts" to "the District Presidents.")

**To Deal with Former
"Faculty Majority" Pastorally**

RESOLUTION 5-04

Overtures 5-170—5-174 (CW, pp. 266—267)

WHEREAS, It is a matter of great urgency for the welfare of individuals involved and our whole Synod that a determination be made as to which members, if any, of the former "faculty majority" of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, are guilty of the doctrinal positions condemned in New Orleans Resolution 3-09; and

WHEREAS, The withdrawal of the former "faculty majority" from the seminary and from the supervision of the Board of Control has made it impossible for the Board of Control to deal with them; and

WHEREAS, The number of persons involved makes it impossible for the District President who has immediate responsibility for the members of the former "faculty

majority" to deal with them within a time period in keeping with the urgency of the problem; therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Synod, after consultation with the Council of Presidents, appoint a committee of pastors and laymen who shall meet with each member of the "faculty majority" to determine whether New Orleans Resolution 3-09 applies to him or to her; and be it further

Resolved, That such committee give priority to dealing with those members of the former "faculty majority" who are teaching or supplying supportive services to Seminex; and be it further

Resolved, That such committee report its findings to the President of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That after the report is turned over to the synodical President, he shall in conjunction with the respective District Presidents deal pastorally with each member.

Action: *Withdrawn by the committee in favor of Res. 3-03A.*

To Declare the Ineligibility of Unendorsed Seminex Graduates for Ordination and Pastoral Ministry in the Missouri Synod

RESOLUTION 5-05

Overtures 5-18, 5-80—5-83, 5-86A—5-95, 5-103—5-106B (CW, pp. 222, 239—243, 246, 247)

An Introductory Word Regarding the Right to Ordain in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Related Circumstances in the Church

It is commonly recognized among us that, according to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, the Christian congregation has the right and responsibility to choose, call, and ordain a suitable person to serve as its pastor. It is also understood that, when a congregation joins The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, it voluntarily restricts certain of its rights in order to receive and serve the greater good of membership in the Synod. One of these, it is necessary to point out in our day, is the right of ordination. The Commission on Constitutional Matters explains the matter of a congregation's yielding its right in ordination in this way: "For good order the right to perform ecclesiastical ordination is voluntarily delegated to the responsible officers of the Synod [the District President, or his representative; see Article XII, 9 c] as a part of the whole process of the congregation's requesting and receiving assistance in the important function of finding a man qualified to be its pastor and in calling him" (Constitutional "Opinion re Ordination Rights," 2, CW, p. 483).

In speaking of ordination, this useful definition of the term, as offered by the CCM, may be noted: "In terms of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod ordination is that rite in which the church recognizes an individual as qualified to discharge the functions normally discharged by a clergyman of the Synod, such as serving as a parish

pastor, proclaiming the Word of God in behalf of the Christian community, and administering the Sacraments" ("Investitures, Commissionings, Appointments etc.," 1, p. 483).

A member congregation of the Synod calls, and the District President—as an officer of the Synod—shall perform or authorize the ecclesiastical ordination of such candidates for the ministry only as are eligible for placement and ordination into the ministry according to the requirements set forth in the Synod's *Handbook* (Article XII 6, 9 c; Bylaw 4.01). The prerequisites for ordination are set forth in Bylaw 4.15 (cf. Bylaw 6.163). Special note of several of these should be taken in the Synod today, namely:

1. He [a candidate for the office of the pastoral ministry] shall have completed the prescribed courses of study and have received a diploma from one of the Synod's seminaries, or have fulfilled the requisites for a colloquy according to the synodical *Handbook*, 4.55—4.71.

2. He shall have received endorsement by the proper faculty or the Committee on Colloquies and in every respect have been declared qualified by them for the office of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the church.

5. He shall have received and accepted a call extended through the proper channels to assume full-time work in the church.

The proper channel through which a candidate is to receive a call is the Council of Presidents, which acts as a Board of Assignments for graduates from the Synod's seminaries and for those who have fulfilled the requisites for a colloquy (Bylaw 4.09).

In view of the foregoing, it will be seen that under the Bylaws of the Synod graduates of Seminex (which is not a seminary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and whose faculty is not a proper faculty of the Synod) are not eligible for ordination and placement in the Synod.

In loving concern for the Seminex students and mindful of the needs of the church, the Council of Presidents in the spring of 1974, after consultation with the faculty and Board of Control of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, devised a temporary procedure which Seminex graduates might follow in order to become properly certified and endorsed for pastoral ministry in the Synod. This course of action, found by the CCM to be in keeping with *Handbook* requirements for ministerial placement and ordination, was offered to the 1974 graduates and after modification was extended to 1975 graduates of Seminex—until June 25, 1975. A number of these men have availed themselves of this opportunity to become properly certified and endorsed; they have received calls and ecclesiastical ordination and are serving their congregations as recognized Missouri Synod pastors at the present time.

The 1974 and 1975 Seminex graduates who have not yet received proper certification and endorsement remain ineligible for pastoral ministry in the Synod. Where congregations have issued calls to Seminex graduates and these have been accepted and where ordinations have then occurred, these have been violations of the synodical Constitution on the part of congregations, graduates, and District Presidents alike. The Synod does

not recognize the ordination these graduates received as qualifying them to serve as pastors in the Synod and does not list their names on the clergy roster of the Synod.

WHEREAS, Unendorsed graduates of Seminex have not as yet met the requirements for service as pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention assembled at Anaheim declare that these unendorsed graduates continue to remain ineligible for ordination and pastoral ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod also in loving concern ask these graduates, for the sake of unity and peace in the church and their own welfare, to seek proper endorsement for ordination and pastoral service according to the procedures which the Synod may at this convention devise for the future.

Action: *None. See Res. 6-04 and 6-05.*

To Give Counsel to Congregations That Have Called and Installed Pastors Who Are Ineligible and Unendorsed for the Ministry in the Synod

RESOLUTION 5-06

Overtures 5-78, 5-79, 5-93A—5-102 (CW, pp. 239, 243—246)

Preamble

It has long been recognized that a Christian congregation has the inherent right and responsibility to choose, call, and ordain such a person as it selects to serve as its pastor. It must also be recognized, however, that every congregation which voluntarily joined The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has made a solemn covenant with its fellow-member congregations to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws adopted by the Synod, including, but not limited to, Article VI of the Synod's Constitution and Sections 4.01 and 4.15 of the Synod's Bylaws, as that Article and those sections relate to the selection, calling, ordaining, and installation of pastors.

To walk together in Christian love and unity, and to receive the benefits to be obtained from accomplishing the objectives described in Article III of the Synod's Constitution, it is essential that all member congregations have the comfort and assurance that the pastors called by them will preach and teach the Word of God in all its purity, and will administer the Sacraments according to Christ's institution. Only if the processes adopted by the Synod are followed for the ordination and installation of pastors, can member congregations have assurance that the person called by any of them will be such a pastor.

WHEREAS, There are congregations who voluntarily joined the Synod but who, through apparent misguidance or the overwhelming desire to satisfy their need for a pastor, have chosen and installed as their pastor a person

who has not followed the Synod's defined processes for receiving proper endorsement for ordination and installation (Synod's Bylaw 4.15); and

WHEREAS, The congregation has the power to take such action as will result in its compliance with Article VI of the Synod's Constitution and Sections 4.01 and 4.15 of the Synod's Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That, while acknowledging the congregation's right to exercise the Office of the Keys according to the Holy Scriptures, the Synod in convention plead with each such congregation to remember its covenant with all other congregations in the Synod and to do all within its power to change its situation so that it will be in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod with regard to calling, ordaining, and installing its pastor.

Action: *Adopted as amended (6).*

(Amendments: 1) to change title from "To Admonish and to Give Counsel and Directions . . ." 2) to insert "while acknowledging . . . Holy Scriptures" into the resolved.)

To Clarify Status of Missouri Synod Clergy Persons Called by Congregations as Assistant Pastors Who Serve as Seminex Professors

RESOLUTION 5-07

Overtures 5-170, 5-173 (CW, pp. 266—267)

WHEREAS, A number of congregations have called Seminex professors as assistant pastors in order to enable them to remain on the clergy roster of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Such action does not meet the roster requirements of Bylaw 4.33 and 4.15 (cf. also ruling of the CCM of May 16, 1974 entitled "Constitutional Ruling on Parishes Calling Men to Serve as Seminex Instructors" CW, p. 481); and

WHEREAS, Professors now teaching at Seminex are teaching at an institution not recognized by the Synod (Bylaw 4.33 ff.); therefore be it

Resolved, That those persons called by congregations as assistant pastors to be Seminex professors and/or who are already Seminex professors can be retained on the clergy roster of the Synod only as candidates on a renewable annual basis under the terms of Bylaw 4.37.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(Discussion was begun in Session 6 and continued in Session 11. At that time, after declining to strike the word "Seminex" in the title and body of the resolution, the convention adopted Res. 5-07 by a standing vote of 565 to 411.)

To Support the Opinion of the CCM (Removal of District Presidents from Office)

RESOLUTION 5-08

Overture 5-111 (CW, p. 248)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters

on Feb. 21, 1975, rendered an opinion regarding "Removal of District Presidents from Office"; and

WHEREAS, "An opinion rendered by the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a synodical convention" (Bylaw 2.107 e); and

WHEREAS, We concur in the rationale of the CCM opinion as printed in the convention *Workbook*, pp. 486—487; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod support the opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters and that Overture 5-111 be declined.

Action: Adopted (11).

(The assembly declined to consider Overture 5-111 as a substitute resolution and also declined to recommit Resolution 5-08 to the floor committee. The resolution was adopted, 514 to 436.)

To Decline to Limit Binding Nature of Opinions of Commission on Constitutional Matters and to Authorize Selective Publication

RESOLUTION 5-09

Report 5-02, I, 16; Overtures 5-161, 5-162 (CW, p. 210, 264); N.O. Res. 5-42 (CW, pp. 443—444)

WHEREAS, The opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters are binding in respect to the questions decided (Bylaw 2.107 e, *Handbook*, p. 66); and



Dr. J.A.O. Preus and Dr. E.H. Happel confer

WHEREAS, Some of its opinions are of general interest and may affect the decisions of the various boards, councils, and commissions of the Synod, and others are personal and should be kept confidential; therefore be it

Resolved, That the opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters continue to be binding unless overruled by the Synod in convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters publish such of its opinions which it deems of general interest and effect in carrying out the work and administration of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That Overtures 5-161 and 5-162 be declined.

Action: Adopted (12).

(The committee eliminated the words "be encouraged to" from the second resolved. The convention declined to consider Overture 5-162 as a substitute and also declined to amend the second resolved to read: "... publish all such of its opinions as do not violate the principle of confidentiality.")

To Decline to Declare Certain New Orleans Resolutions Null and Void

RESOLUTION 5-10

Overtures 5-72, 5-177 (CW, pp. 236, 239, 268)

WHEREAS, The New Orleans convention acted in accordance with "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised" in adopting a standing rule to close debate by a majority vote rather than a two-thirds vote; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-72 and 5-177 be declined.

Action: Adopted (12).

(A motion was made to return the resolution to the floor committee until a protest entered by an Atlantic District delegate after the New Orleans convention had received a reply. After consultation with the parliamentarian of the New Orleans convention, the President informed the assembly that the parliamentarian had answered this protest. The motion failed to carry. After a call for the question, Res. 5-10 was adopted.)

To Retain Bylaw 4.15 (Ordinations)

RESOLUTION 5-11

Overture 5-77 (CW, p. 239)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 4.15 does not conflict with Article VI of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-77 be respectfully declined and that Bylaw 4.15 be retained.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Clarify Matter of District Resolutions

RESOLUTION 5-12

Overtures 5-178A, 5-178B (CW, p. 268)

WHEREAS, Resolutions of the Synod are binding on the Districts as a District is the Synod itself performing the functions of the Synod (Bylaw 3.07); therefore be it

Resolved, That actions taken at a District convention contrary to resolutions of the Synod are null and void; and be it further

Resolved, That a District of the Synod may adopt resolutions which ask the Synod to rescind or annul actions of a synodical convention.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Revise Bylaw 1.27 c (Overtures)

RESOLUTION 5-13

Reports 5-01, App. 5-01A, 5-02, I, 5 (CW, pp. 205—206, 208); N.O. Res. 5-11 (CW, p. 441)

WHEREAS, The concerns of Milwaukee Overture 5-29 and Referred N.O. Resolution 5-11 have been considered by the Commission on Constitutional Matters; and

WHEREAS, The CCM proposes revision of Bylaw 1.27 c to clarify the matter of overtures submitted to floor committees of the convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 1.27 c be revised to read:

PRESENT WORDING

c. Overtures requesting the Synod to take action which is in conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod or in matters for which the Constitution or Bylaws have provided specific procedures; which contain defamatory allegations; or overtures which may subject the President of the Synod or the Synod to civil actions for libel or slander, shall not be published or presented to any floor committee or to the convention; nor shall any overture be accepted with reference to any case involving suspension, expulsion, or appeals.

PROPOSED WORDING

c. Overtures with reference to a case in which a member has been suspended or expelled and which is at present in the process of or subject to appeal as well as overtures which, upon advice of legal counsel, may subject the Synod or the corporate officers of the Synod to civil action for libel or slander shall not be accepted for convention consideration.

and be it further

Resolved, That the above Bylaw change meets the concern of N.O. 5-11 (Recommendation 5, Report 5-02, CW, p. 208)

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Endorse Commission on Constitutional Matters' Opinion re Bylaw 1.27 c

RESOLUTION 5-14

Overtures 5-73A—J, 5-74, 5-75 (CW, pp. 237—238)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has rendered an opinion re Bylaw 1.27 c; and

WHEREAS, This opinion is found in 1975 *Convention Workbook*, p. 205; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention endorse the opinion of

the Commission on Constitutional Matters concerning Bylaw 1.27 c.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Accept CCM Ruling re Rev. Dr. John H. Tietjen Case

RESOLUTION 5-15

Overture 5-76 (CW, p. 238)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters issued an opinion on the procedure for the referral of the doctrinal charges against the Rev. Dr. John H. Tietjen; and

WHEREAS, The CCM ruled that the procedures shall be with the President of the Missouri District; and

WHEREAS, The CCM had all pertinent facts for input into said ruling; and

WHEREAS, Overture 5-76 does not present any new facts to justify reversal of the CCM decision; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-76 be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Refer Questions on Voting Rights to Task Force

RESOLUTION 5-16

Report 5-02, I, 3; Overtures 5-25—5-34, 5-43—5-48B (CW, pp. 208, 224—226, 229—231); N.O. Res. 5-14, 5-15 (CW, pp. 441—442)

WHEREAS, The change in voting rights requires major constitutional amendments; and

WHEREAS, A Task Force to Study the Constitution and Bylaws is being proposed to this convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the concerns addressed by N.O. Res. 5-14 and 5-15 (*Proceedings*, 1973, pp. 168—169) and by the above overtures addressed to this convention be referred to this task force.

Action: None. See Res. 5-01A.

To Terminate Commission on Mission and Ministry in the Church

RESOLUTION 5-17

Report 5-02, I, 24 (CW, p. 213); N.O. Res. 4-31 (p. 439)

WHEREAS, The synodical Board of Directors reported to the New Orleans convention that the Commission on Mission and Ministry in the Church "has now served its purpose" (CW 1973, p. 172) and that the Synod "bring the work of the Commission on Mission and Ministry in the Church to an end" and accordingly remove Bylaw 2.111 which governs this commission's service, and all other pertinent Bylaw references; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans Resolution 4-31 (To Reconstitute the Commission on Mission and Ministry) was not acted upon but referred to the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The Reorganization and Constitution Review Committee, cognizant of the fact that the Board of Directors is presenting the proposal that this commission be terminated, "takes no exception to the proposal of the Board of Directors"; therefore be it

Resolved, That we concur in this proposal and terminate the Commission on Mission and Ministry in the Church.

Action: See Res. 4-11.

To Terminate World Hunger Committee

RESOLUTION 5-18

Report 5-02, I, 24 (CW, p. 213)

WHEREAS, The world hunger committee, created in 1969, was an ad hoc committee; and

WHEREAS, The Committee for Reorganization and Constitution Review "concurs with the recommendation of the Board of Directors that the ad hoc committee on World Hunger be terminated and its work transferred to the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief"; therefore be it

Resolved, That this action be taken, "that the ad hoc committee on World Hunger be terminated and its work transferred to the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief."

Action: See Res. 4-15.

To Continue Study of Relationship of Deaconesses to the Synod

RESOLUTION 5-19

Report 5-04 (CW, pp. 217—218)

WHEREAS, The delegates of the synodical convention in Milwaukee in 1971 passed a resolution to appoint a committee to study the relationship of deaconesses to the Synod and report to the next synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, Many young girls and women have been brought to the knowledge of and faith in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and believe they have been called to serve in the ministry of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The ministry of deaconesses extends into parishes, institutions, social work, foreign missions, campus ministry, state institutions, counseling, special education, has now entered ministry to Mexican Americans, and will soon be represented in Taiwan and the Philippines; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod continue to recognize the efforts and work of the Lutheran Deaconess Association in providing an educational program for women who are seeking opportunities to serve in the ministry of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the administrators of the Synod and

the presidents of synodical Districts include information about deaconess ministry in their recruitment efforts for church workers and that they recommend the consideration of deaconesses to serve on boards, commissions, and committees at local, circuit, District, and synodical levels; and be it further

Resolved, That a representative from the Synod's Board for Higher Education continue to serve as an advisory member on the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Deaconess Association; and be it further

Resolved, That a successor ad hoc committee be appointed by the President of the Synod to serve until the next synodical convention to explore further the questions concerning the relationship of deaconesses to the Synod and the expansion of women's ministry in the church; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations and institutions blessed with deaconesses on their staffs give greater recognition to women serving in their midst, with special reference to ministry and compensation.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Reaffirm That District Convention Resolutions Be in Harmony with the Synod's Goals and Purposes

RESOLUTION 5-20

Overtures 5-84A—5-85 (CW, pp. 240—241)

WHEREAS, The Districts of the Synod represent the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The term Synod means a "walking together"; and

WHEREAS, "A District is the Synod itself performing the function of the Synod"; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been organized to walk voluntarily together in unity and love; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention reaffirm that all District resolutions which are in conflict with the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions are unconstitutional and therefore null and void (Article XII, 2; Bylaw 3.07).

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Clarify Method of Electing Delegates

RESOLUTION 5-21

Overtures 5-35—5-43 (CW, p. 226—229)

WHEREAS, There has been considerable confusion regarding some of the wording of Bylaw 1.53 (Election of Delegates); therefore be it

Resolved, That the wording of Bylaw 1.53 be clarified in the following way:

PRESENT WORDING

1.53 Election of Delegates

a. Each electoral circuit shall meet at the call of the Counselor(s) to elect its delegates not later than 9 months prior to the opening day of the convention. The election shall be by written ballot. All pastors who are not advisory members under Article V B shall be eligible for election. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layman from each member congregation of the circuit. Multiple parishes shall be entitled to a lay vote from each member congregation. Each delegate shall vote for two pastors, and balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received support from a majority of the voters, whereupon he shall be declared the pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served by the elected pastoral delegate shall be removed from consideration for supplying any other voting delegate or alternate for that particular convention.

b. Prior to the meeting of the electoral circuit, each congregation shall nominate one layman, either from its congregation or from the circuit, the name to be submitted to the Circuit Counselor. All congregational nominees shall be eligible for election. The election shall follow the same procedure as in paragraph "a" above, until a lay delegate has been chosen by majority vote, whereupon he shall be declared the lay delegate. The congregation from which the lay delegate has been elected shall then be removed from consideration for supplying any remaining voting delegate or alternate to that particular convention.

c. Balloting shall continue in the same manner on the remaining pastoral candidates until another has gained majority support, whereupon he shall be declared the alternate pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served by the elected alternate pastoral delegate shall be removed from consideration for supplying any other voting delegate or alternate for that particular convention.

d. Balloting shall continue in the same manner on the remaining lay candidates until another has gained majority support, whereupon he shall be declared the alternate lay delegate.

e. The Counselor(s) shall report the results of the election to the Secretary of the District in writing immediately after said election. If neither the delegate nor the alternate (pastoral or lay) can serve, the vacancy shall be filled by the District President in consultation with the respective Circuit Counselor(s).

PROPOSED WORDING

1.53 Election of Delegates

a. Each electoral circuit shall meet at the call of the Counselor(s) to elect its delegates not later than 9 months prior to the opening day of the convention. The election shall be by written ballot. All pastors who are not advisory members under Article V B shall be eligible for election. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layman from each member congregation of the circuit. Multiple parishes shall be entitled to a lay vote from each member congregation. Each delegate may write in the name of two pastors on the initial ballot. The three pastors (or more, in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be declared the pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served by the elected pastoral delegate shall be removed from consideration for supplying any other voting delegate or alternate for that particular convention.

b. (remains unchanged)

c. Balloting shall continue in the same manner on the remaining pastoral candidates (two candidates except in case of a tie vote on the initial balloting) until another has received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be declared the alternate pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served by the elected alternate pastoral delegate shall be removed from consideration for supplying any other voting delegate or alternate for that particular convention.

d. Balloting shall continue in the same manner as in paragraph c on the remaining lay candidates until another has received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be declared the alternate lay delegate.

e. (remains unchanged)

Action: Recommitted to the floor committee (11).

(Referral was voted after the assembly had amended the fourth sentence of par. a to read: "... one pastor and one lay person properly elected from each member congregation of the circuit.")

To Clarify Method of Electing Delegates

RESOLUTION 5-21A

(The floor committee filed with the Secretary the following revisions which, however, could no longer be included in *Today's Business*)

Proposed Bylaw 1.53 a: Insert after the 6th sentence: "If a pastor has not received support from a majority of voters on the initial ballot, on the second ballot, and each succeeding ballot, each delegate shall vote for one candi-

date, and balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate . . ." (omit 7th and 8th sentences).

Proposed Bylaw 1.53 b: As proposed.

Proposed Bylaw 1.53 c: "The alternate pastoral delegate shall be elected in the same manner as the pastoral delegate. The congregation or congregations served . . ."

Proposed Bylaw 1.53 d: "The alternate lay delegate shall be elected in the same manner as the lay delegate."

Proposed Bylaw 1.53 e: "No person shall be elected to

serve as a delegate to more than two successive synodical conventions."

Proposed Bylaw 1.53 f: Present wording of Bylaw 1.53 e.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Delete Congregational Certification for Lay Delegates

RESOLUTION 5-22

Overture 5-55 (CW, p. 232)

WHEREAS, The lay delegates to the synodical conventions are no longer elected by the congregation but rather by the circuit meetings from a list of candidates nominated by the congregations in the circuit; therefore be it

Resolved, That the last sentence of Bylaw 1.59

In addition, every lay delegate shall present credentials supplied by the synodical secretary and signed by the pastor and two officers of the congregation.

be deleted. (See Res. 12-03.)

PRESENT WORDING

1.59 Certification

The names and addresses of all voting and advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be forwarded by the District Secretary before the announced registration deadline to the Secretary of the Synod on registration forms provided by the latter. This procedure shall constitute certification. In addition, every lay delegate shall present credentials supplied by the synodical Secretary and signed by the pastor and two officers of the congregation.

PROPOSED WORDING

1.59 Certification

The names and addresses of all voting and advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be forwarded by the District Secretary before the announced registration deadline to the Secretary of the Synod on registration forms provided by the latter. This procedure shall constitute certification.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

To Study Membership Classifications and to Define Terms "Clergy," "Ministers of Christian Education," and "Teachers"

RESOLUTION 5-23

Overtures 5-20, 5-21 (CW, p. 223)

WHEREAS, The professional roster of the Synod has grown in both number and variety of ministries; and

WHEREAS, The inclusion of all teachers on the "clergy" roster of the Synod involves almost insurmountable administrative difficulties; and

WHEREAS, There is a distinct difference in the requirements and qualifications of the offices of "clergy," "ministers of Christian education," and "pastoral ministry"; therefore be it

Resolved, To refer these overtures to the Council of

Presidents for study and recommendation to the Task Force to Study Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Refer N.O. Res. 5-07 to Task Force (Appointment or Election of Boards and Commissions)

RESOLUTION 5-24

Report 5-02, I, 22 (CW, pp. 211—212); N.O. Res. 5-07 (CW, pp. 440—441)

WHEREAS, The Committee for Reorganization is studying the proposed reorganization of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That we accept the recommendation of the Committee for Reorganization in N.O. Res. 5-07 and refer the proposed resolution (except as amended in substance by this convention) concerning elections and boards and commissions to the Task Force organized for this purpose for further study and implementation.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Amend Bylaws Regarding Report of Ad Hoc Committee Study of Convention Nomination and Election Procedures

RESOLUTION 5-25

Report 5-03 (CW, p. 217)

WHEREAS, The New Orleans convention called for a special committee to review and study nomination and election procedures of synodical officers and various board and commission members elected by the synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, Said committee was appointed, functioned, and recommends certain changes in Sections 2.129 f and 2.121 a of the *Handbook*; therefore be it

Resolved, That the last sentence of paragraph f in Section 2.129 be changed to read:

PRESENT WORDING

f. The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the Secretary of the Synod this document and written pertinent information concerning his nominee as detailed in 2.129 e.

PROPOSED WORDING

f. The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall have submitted this document and written pertinent information concerning his nominee (as detailed in 2.129 e) to the Secretary of the Synod no later than 10 days before the opening of the convention.

and be it further

Resolved, That the following sentence be added to paragraph "a" in Section 2.121 of the aforementioned Handbook:

PRESENT WORDING

a. Prior to the convention of the Synod the President shall appoint a Committee on Elections and designate a chairman. The Secretary of the Synod shall provide the chairman with a current manual of suggested election procedures.

PROPOSED WORDING

a. Prior to the convention of the Synod the President shall appoint a Committee on Elections and designate a chairman. The Secretary of the Synod shall provide the chairman with a current manual of suggested election procedures. The chairman and the secretary of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall be advisory members of the Committee on Elections.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Require Reporting of Tally in Elections

RESOLUTION 5-26

Overture 5-71 (CW, p. 236)

WHEREAS, The 1973 convention resolved (Res. 5-02) that the tally of the votes cast for each candidate should be announced after each ballot in all elections; therefore be it

Resolved, That this provision be incorporated in the Bylaws by adding the following paragraph to Bylaw 2.125:

c. The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Change Manner of Appointment of Commission on Constitutional Matters

RESOLUTION 5-27

Report 5-02, V, 13; Overtures 5-155A—5-160 (CW, pp. 210, 263—264); N.O. Res. 5-24 (CW, p. 422)

WHEREAS, The Committee on Organization was assigned at the Milwaukee convention (*Proceedings*, 1971, Res. 5-17, p. 160) the task of evaluating the Commission on Constitutional Matters; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans Resolution 5-24 was referred and the Report of the Committee for Reorganization and Constitutional Review (CW, p. 208) has made a specific recommendation in reference to said resolution for the appointment of the Commission on Constitutional Matters; and

WHEREAS, This committee studied the appointing

authority, tenure of office, and membership serving on boards and commissions in the Synod and District; and

WHEREAS, This committee found no conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS, This committee considered suggestions that the Commission on Constitutional Matters be elected rather than appointed; and

WHEREAS, The history of the Commission on Constitutional Matters has shown that there has been a beneficial continuity of service; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention reject the overtures dealing with the election of the Commission on Constitutional Matters and reaffirm the practice of appointing this commission; and be it further

Resolved, That with regard to the appointment of this commission, Bylaw 2.107 be revised to read:

PRESENT WORDING

2.107 Commission on Constitutional Matters

a. The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents. The commission shall consist of five members: two pastors, two laymen, and the Secretary of the Synod. The President shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents as an advisory member.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.107 Commission on Constitutional Matters

a. The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Board of Directors. The commission shall consist of five members: two pastors, two laymen, both of whom shall be attorneys-at-law, and the Secretary of the Synod. The President shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents as an advisory member.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Recommended Policy for Mandatory Retirement

RESOLUTION 5-28

Report 5-02, I, 7 (CW, pp. 208—209); N.O. Res. 5-20 (CW, p. 442)

WHEREAS, Officers of the Synod must stand for reelection in a competitive election; and

WHEREAS, Staff personnel serve on the basis of 4-year contracts; and

WHEREAS, Faculty members are already covered by adequate Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, There seems to be no need for additional mandatory retirement provisions in the Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That the recommendation for additional mandatory retirement age provisions be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment. See also Res. 4-14.

To Clarify Bylaws 1.57 and 1.61 (Advisory Delegates)

RESOLUTION 5-29

Report 5-02, I, 14; Overtures 5-50, 5-52 (CW, pp. 210, 231); N.O. Res. 5-26 (CW, p. 443)

WHEREAS, The election procedure of advisory delegates has seemed unclear to some members of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Organization has also recommended clarification of Bylaws 1.57 and 1.61; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 1.57 shall be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

1.57 Advisory Delegates

Each District shall send one advisory delegate for approximately every 30 advisory clergymen and one advisory delegate for approximately every 30 teachers on the roster of the Synod. These selections shall be made by the respective group meetings at the call of the District Secretary during the District convention. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each District shall be entitled to at least one advisory delegate in each category.

PROPOSED WORDING

1.57 Advisory Delegates

a. Each District shall send one advisory delegate for every unit of 30 advisory clergymen and one advisory delegate for every unit of 30 teachers on the roster of the Synod. These selections shall be made by the respective groups meeting at the call of the District Secretary during the District conventions. Fractions of less than half a unit shall be disregarded except that each District shall be entitled to at least one advisory delegate in each category.

b. Advisory members of the Synod who are eligible to serve as advisory representatives to the convention under the terms of Bylaw 1.61 shall not be counted in determining the number of advisory delegates from a District; neither shall they participate in their selection nor be eligible to serve as such advisory delegates.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 1.61 d be amended by changing the words "advisory delegates" to "advisory representatives," and the words "delegate for each ten male missionaries" to "representative for each 20 missionaries".

PRESENT WORDING

d. Each foreign mission area, as defined and established from time to time by the Board for Missions, may be represented at a synodical convention by advisory delegates from within the mission area who are on furlough at the time of the convention. They shall be elected at such times and in such manner as the board shall prescribe, at the rate of one delegate for each ten male missionaries (or major fraction thereof) within such mission area; provided, however, that each mission area shall be entitled to at least one delegate.

PROPOSED WORDING

d. Each foreign mission area, as defined and established from time to time by the Board for Missions, may be represented at a synodical convention by advisory representatives from within the mission area who are on furlough at the time of the convention. They shall be elected at such times and in such manner as the board shall prescribe, at the rate of one repre-

sentative for each 20 missionaries (or major fraction thereof) within such mission area; provided, however, that each mission area shall be entitled to at least one delegate.

and be it finally

Resolved, That Bylaw 1.61 f be deleted.

PRESENT WORDING

f. Other full-time employees of the Synod and its Districts and other elected officials of the Districts may attend delegate conventions as advisory delegates as they become eligible under the provisions of Section 1.57. However, such advisory delegates (1.57) and advisory representatives (1.61) shall be counted only once, either as advisory delegates or representatives, since they are eligible to serve as advisory members of the convention in a single capacity only, not under both.

PROPOSED WORDING

(delete)

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Refer the Adjudicatory Process to the Task Force

RESOLUTION 5-30

Report 5-02, I, 23; Overtures 5-68A, 5-68B (CW, pp. 212, 236); N.O. Res. 5-17 (CW, p. 442)

WHEREAS, There is no orderly process to remove District and synodical officers from their office; therefore be it

Resolved, To refer the adjudicatory process to the Task Force to Study Constitution and Bylaws; and be it further

Resolved, That this Task Force study and give consideration to the concerns expressed in the above-listed overtures and report.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Change the Name of Commission of Adjudication to Board of Adjudication

RESOLUTION 5-31

Report 5-02, I, 23; Overture 4-60 (CW, pp. 212, 195)

WHEREAS, The Committee for Reorganization has examined the comprehensive Milwaukee convention Res. 5-14 which established the Commission of Adjudication (*Proceedings*, 1971, pp. 156—159); and

WHEREAS, For the sake of consistency in terminology it is advisable to change the name from Commission to Board; therefore be it

Resolved, That the name of the Commission of Adjudication be changed to Board of Adjudication.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Maintain the Rights of Others

RESOLUTION 5-32

Overture 5-10, 5-169A, 5-169B (CW, pp. 220, 265—266)

WHEREAS, The constitution and Bylaws of the Synod exist to guarantee the rights of all its members; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord through His holy apostle admonishes each of us, "Do not think of yourselves more highly than you should. Instead be modest in your thinking..." (Rom. 12:3); and

WHEREAS, Each of us should seek his neighbor's good and not his own; therefore be it

Resolved, That we regard our Constitution as guaranteeing the rights of others, not our own rights first of all; and be it further

Resolved, That each of us earnestly strive to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in humility and service; and be it finally

Resolved, That we commit ourselves and one another to the grace of our Lord, who "When He was insulted did not answer back with an insult..." but "...Himself carried our sins in His body to the cross..." (Heb. 2:23-24).

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Retain Bylaw 2.127 e (Circularizing the Synod)

RESOLUTION 5-33

Overture 5-168 (CW, p. 265); N.O. Res. 5-35 (CW, p. 443)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.127 e (Handbook, p. 72) seeks to encourage a wholesome restraint in matters of circularizing the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-168 be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Amend Bylaws Relating to Executive Administration

RESOLUTION 5-34

Report 5-02, I, 2 (CW, p. 208); N.O. Res. 5-09 (CW, p. 441)

WHEREAS, All of the provisions of New Orleans Res. 5-09 have already been adopted with the exception that the President serve as chairman of the Board of Directors, which he has been doing traditionally, and in order to provide for consistency; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.27 be amended by adding subsection 1.

PRESENT WORDING

(none)

PROPOSED WORDING

1. The President shall serve as a member and chairman of the Board of Directors.
and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 2.75 be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

2.75 Officers of the Board

The Board of Directors shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman, and such other officers of the board as may be necessary.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.75 Officers of the Board

The President of the Synod shall serve as chairman of the Board of Directors, and the Secretary of the Synod shall serve as its secretary. The board shall elect its own vice-chairman and such other officers as may be necessary.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Receive Berea-by-the-Water Lutheran Church, Goderich, Ont., into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-35

Overture 5-180U (TB, p. 18)

WHEREAS, Berea-by-the-Water Lutheran Church, Goderich, Ont., has applied for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Berea-by-the-Water Lutheran Church, Goderich, Ont., be received into membership with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Receive Trinity, Bridgeton, Mo., into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-36

Overture 5-05 (CW, p. 218)

WHEREAS, Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Bridgeton, Mo., has applied for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Bridgeton, Mo., be received into membership with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: Withdrawn by the floor committee because the Missouri District had not yet approved the congregation's constitution (11).

To Receive Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Davie, Fla. into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-37

Overture 5-179U (TB, p. 18)

WHEREAS, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Davie, Fla.,

has applied for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Davie, Fla., be received into membership with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: Adopted (11).

To Decline to Elect District Presidents and Vice-Presidents by the Synodical Conventions

RESOLUTION 5-38

Report 5-02, I, 15; Overtures 5-67, 5-147 (CW, pp. 210, 235—236, 260); N.O. Res. 5-34 (CW, p. 443)

WHEREAS, The synodical Bylaws 3.21—3.39 make adequate provision for the election of District Presidents and Vice-Presidents; and

WHEREAS, Such regulations have proved to be fully adequate and provide full franchise to each congregation of the District; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-67 and 5-147 to provide for the election of District Presidents and Vice-Presidents by the synodical convention be respectfully declined, and that New Orleans Res. 5-34 which declines synodical convention election of District Presidents be adopted.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Change Nominating Procedure for President and First Vice-President

RESOLUTION 5-39

Report 5-02, I, 12; Overtures 5-62—5-65B (CW, pp. 210, 234—235); N.O. Res. 5-22 (CW, p. 442)

WHEREAS, The provisions of Bylaws 1.27, 1.29, and 1.31 have been in practice for only one convention; and

WHEREAS, There seems to be no significant reason to amend these procedures; therefore be it

Resolved, That the above overtures be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Change Regarding District Secretary

RESOLUTION 5-40

Report 5-02, I, 4 (CW, p. 208); N.O. Res. 5-19 (CW, p. 442)

WHEREAS, The Synod's *Handbook* Bylaw 3.21 requires that the District Secretary shall be elected from the clergy roster; and

WHEREAS, This regulation has proved of value in the past; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.21 be retained.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Change in Process of Election of District Presidents

RESOLUTION 5-41

Report 5-02, I, 15; Overture 5-147 (CW, pp. 210, 260)

WHEREAS, The synodical Bylaws (3.21—3.39) make adequate provision for the election of District Presidents; and

WHEREAS, Such regulations have proved to be fully adequate and provide full franchise to each congregation of the District; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-147 to "provide for the election of District Presidents by the Synod" be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment. See also Res. 5-38.

To Decline to Change Bylaws re Staff Officers in Elective and Appointive Positions

RESOLUTION 5-42

Report 5-02, I, 8 (CW, p. 209); N.O. Res. 5-08 (CW, p. 441)

WHEREAS, Resolution 4-42 (Milwaukee), referred to the Board of Directors by the Milwaukee convention, expresses the desire that all conflict of interest which may be incurred by a staff member's service on boards of the Synod or its Districts should be avoided; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Organization and Constitution Review also agrees with the concerns expressed by this overture; and

WHEREAS, Adequate safeguards are provided in Bylaw 2.15, Section a, b, c, against such possible conflict of interest; therefore be it

Resolved, To decline to change Bylaws regarding staff officers in elective and appointive positions.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Restrict District Clergy Office to Parish Pastor

RESOLUTION 5-43

Report 5-02, I, 20 (CW, p. 211); N.O. Res. 5-25 (CW, p. 443)

WHEREAS, In the interest of uniformity of procedure within the Synod, Districts should not be permitted to establish differing procedures of election; and

WHEREAS, The results requested in Overture 5-36, Milwaukee convention of 1971, can be obtained through discriminatory nominations and elections; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod decline to change its nomi-

nation and election procedures regarding District clergy officers.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Order Restatement of Bylaw 2.109 e of 1969 Handbook

RESOLUTION 5-44

Report 5-01, II; Overture 5-163 (CW, pp. 203, 264)

WHEREAS, The Synod itself in Milwaukee (Resolution 2-29) voted to eliminate Bylaw Section 2.109 e cited from the 1969 *Handbook*; and

WHEREAS, This fact was duly publicized in the Milwaukee convention *Proceedings*, p. 123, as well as subsequently in the *Lutheran Witness* (March 17, 1974, p. 30) when a rumor was given credence in a publication; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-163 be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline a Study Regarding the Election of Vice-Presidents and Involving District Presidents in All Affairs

RESOLUTION 5-45

Report 5-02, I, 12 (CW, p. 210); N.O. Res. 5-22 (CW, p. 442)

WHEREAS, The concerns expressed in these overtures (N.O. 5-54A, 5-54B) are met satisfactorily by the present provisions of the Synod's Constitution, Article XII; therefore be it

Resolved, That these overtures be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Refer Study of Circuit Counselor Election

RESOLUTION 5-46

Overture 5-167 (CW, p. 265)

WHEREAS, The office of counselor is an important office of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The committee is recommending the creation of a task force to thoroughly study the *Handbook* of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That we refer this overture to the proposed Task Force on Reorganization and Constitution Review.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Caution Regarding Possible Conflict of Interest

RESOLUTION 5-47

Report 5-02, I, 9 (CW, p. 209); N.O. Res. 5-40 (CW, p. 443)

WHEREAS, Two previous conventions of the Synod have not had sufficient time to respond to a request to define "Conflict of Interest" (Overture 5-68, *CW*, 1971, pp. 274—275; Res. 5-43, *Proceedings* 1971, p. 169; Res. 5-40 *Proceedings* 1973, p. 174); and

WHEREAS, The Report of the Committee on Reorganization and Constitution Review endorses the passage of N.O. Res. 5-40 (*Proceedings* 1973, p. 174); and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Reorganization and Constitution Review nevertheless cautions against potential conflicts of interest; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Report of the Reorganization and Constitutional Review Committee (5-02, I, 9, *CW*, p. 209) be adopted; and be it further

Resolved, That all care be taken to avoid any conflict of interest in District and synodical administration.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Amend Bylaw 1.07 (Advisory Delegates)

RESOLUTION 5-48

Overtures 5-53, 5-165 (CW, pp. 232, 265)

WHEREAS, The committee is recommending the creation of a task force to thoroughly review the *Handbook* of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That we refer this subject concerning advisory delegates at District conventions to the proposed Task Force on Constitutional Matters.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Give Voting Privileges to ALC Pastors Serving Missouri Synod Congregations

RESOLUTION 5-49

Overtures 5-51A, 5-51B (CW, p. 231)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Synod sets the standard for membership and voting privileges in the Synod (Art. VI and V); therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-51A and 5-51B be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Merger of Commission on Organizations with Commission on Theology and Church Relations

RESOLUTION 5-50

Report 5-02, I, 11 (CW, p. 209—210); N.O. Res. 4-29 (CW, p. 439)

WHEREAS, The organizational structure of the Synod is being reviewed; and

WHEREAS, Other important functions are already being assigned to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Organizations be retained in its present form until such review is completed.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Refer the Legislative Process to Task Force

RESOLUTION 5-51

Report 5-02, I, 1; Overtures 5-16, 5-17 (CW, pp. 208, 221—222); N.O. Res. 5-16 (CW, p. 442)

WHEREAS, The Reorganization and Constitution Review Committee has studied N.O. Res. 5-16; and

WHEREAS, Major recommendations of these overtures would entail fundamental changes in the Synod's Constitution; therefore be it

Resolved, To refer the concerns of Overtures 5-16 and 5-17 to the Task Force to Study the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Request for Study of Referendum Procedure

RESOLUTION 5-52

Report 5-02, J, 21; Overture 5-164 (CW, pp. 221, 264—265); N.O. Res. 5-41 (CW, p. 443)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has unanimously decided that the question of the constitutionality of congregational referenda must be answered in the negative; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee convention asked the Council of Presidents to give further study to the matter of referenda (*Proceedings* 1971, p. 168); and

WHEREAS, The floor committee on Constitutional Matters at the New Orleans convention recommended that the opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters be upheld with regard to the use of referenda; therefore be it

Resolved, That the request for referenda be denied.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Retain Present Provisions re Overtures

RESOLUTION 5-53

Overtures 5-60A—5-61B (CW, p. 234)

WHEREAS, Experience has shown that interested people and groups have been able to submit overtures to the Synod by using present Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 5-60A, 5-60B, 5-61A, and 5-61B be respectfully declined and that present provision for submission of overtures be retained.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Request to Cancel or Defer District Conventions

RESOLUTION 5-54

Overture 5-166 (CW, p. 265)

WHEREAS, Article XII, paragraph 13, of the Constitution provides for District sessions to be held in those years in which no regular session of the Synod is held; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has the right to make an exception to this rule, and in fact has done so with one District, thereby providing the necessary flexibility for unusual situations; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-166 be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Overture to Ask All Synodical Officials to Indicate Intentions

RESOLUTION 5-55

Overtures 5-176A, 5-176B (CW, pp. 267—268)

WHEREAS, All synodical officials are expected to respect all resolutions of the Synod (Article XI, B, 4; Article XII, 9, a; Bylaw 1.09 b and Bylaw 1.09 c); therefore be it

Resolved, That this overture be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Overtures 4-39A—4-39C Regarding Limitation of Term

RESOLUTION 5-56

Overture 4-39A—C (CW, p. 191)

Resolved, That Overtures 4-39A, 4-39B, and 4-39C be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Amend Bylaws 4.111—4.123 re Pastor and Teacher Conferences

RESOLUTION 5-57

Report 5-01, IV, G (CW, p. 205); N.O. Res. 5-29 (CW, p. 443)

WHEREAS, New Orleans Res. 5-29 was referred to the Board of Directors under the omnibus resolution of the New Orleans convention for study; and

PRESENT WORDING

H. CONFERENCES OF PASTORS AND TEACHERS

4.111 Pastoral Conferences

Each District of the Synod shall arrange conferences for its pastors. Four weeks prior to the convention of the District the minutes and essays or a reasonably comprehensive summary of the essays accepted by these pastoral conferences shall be submitted to a committee appointed by the District President for examination and a report to the convention.

4.113 Teachers Conferences

Each District of the Synod shall arrange conferences for its teachers. The minutes and essays or a reasonably comprehensive summary of the essays accepted by these conferences shall be submitted to the District convention in the same way as those of pastoral conferences.

4.115 Joint Conferences

Each District shall encourage joint conferences of pastors and teachers.

4.117 Smaller Conferences

Pastors and teachers are encouraged to organize smaller conferences in addition to their regular conferences and to meet for the purpose of discussing doctrinal, professional, and practical matters.

4.119 Intersynodical Conferences

Intersynodical conferences for the study of theology are desirable and are encouraged on a regular basis.

4.121 Purposes of Conferences

The official conferences of pastors and teachers shall be conducted for the spiritual and professional growth of their members. Matters pertaining to Christian doctrine and practice, to professional problems, to the proper conduct in office, to private study, to the welfare of the respective congregations and schools, to the work of the District and of the Synod, or to any other professional matter shall at all times receive due and sympathetic attention. The members of the conferences shall aim to cultivate brotherly relationship, be mutually helpful in every way possible, and encourage, instruct, and admonish one another in a spirit of sincerity and Christian love. Professional conferences have no synodical administrative functions.

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors referred N.O. Res. 5-29 to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for study; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters recommends the adoption of N.O. Res. 5-29; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Bylaw change in N.O. Res. 5-29 be adopted, which reads:

PROPOSED WORDING

H. CONFERENCES OF PASTORS AND TEACHERS

4.111 Official Pastoral and Teachers Conferences

a. In each District of the Synod there shall be an official conference for its pastors and an official conference for its teachers. Each official conference shall consist respectively of all clergymen and all teachers on the District roster and shall meet, if possible, in plenary sessions at least once each year and may meet more frequently in major sections (not more than four sections) whose geographical boundaries shall be established by the District in convention. Also such major sectional meetings shall be regarded as sessions of the official conference.

b. All clergymen and teachers on the District roster are expected to attend meetings of their official conference or present a valid excuse.

c. The plenary and the sectional meetings of both official conferences may adopt and submit overtures to the District and synodical conventions.

d. Four weeks prior to the convention of the District the minutes and essays or a reasonably comprehensive summary of the essays accepted by the pastoral conference and by the teachers conference in plenary and sectional meetings shall be submitted to a committee appointed by the District President for examination and a report to the convention.

4.113 Other Conferences

a. The official pastoral and official teachers conferences shall be encouraged to meet also jointly for the purpose of discussing doctrinal, professional, and practical matters.

b. Pastors and teachers are encouraged to organize smaller conferences in addition to their official conferences.

c. Intersynodical conferences for the study of theology are desirable and are encouraged on a regular basis.

4.115 Purposes of Conferences

present 4.121

4.123 Attendance at Official Conferences

Attendance at the official conferences shall be obligatory for pastors and teachers serving in congregations and parishes. Those whose office in the Synod, District, or synodical institution imposes professional or service requirements on which full and regular conference attendance makes undue demands, shall nevertheless, in consultation with their supervisory boards, arrange for their own partial or occasional attendance and participation in their own official conferences.

4.123 Attendance at Official Conferences

eliminate, see proposed 4.111 b

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Reaffirm Presidential Authority and Responsibility

RESOLUTION 5-58

Report 5-01, IV, F (CW, p. 205); N.O. Res. 5-05 (CW, p. 440)

Resolved, That we accept the New Orleans convention Res. 5-05 which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Suggestions have been made that the authority of the office of the President should be strengthened; and

WHEREAS, Others have suggested that the authority of

the office of the President be curtailed and divided among either the Vice-Presidents or the District Presidents; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters, after consultation with many knowledgeable people, has made an in-depth study on the question of presidential power and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Their findings indicate that extensive authority does indeed exist and needs to exist in the office of the President for effective administration; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention reaffirm the authority and responsibility vested in the office of the President by our Constitution and Bylaws.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

6. HIGHER EDUCATION

To Honor Those Who Have Fallen Asleep in Jesus

RESOLUTION 6-01A

(Replacing Res. 6-01)

Overture 6-153—6-154 (CW, p. 362)

WHEREAS, Several professors at our synodical educational institutions have fallen asleep in Jesus during the past biennium; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has benefitted from the gifts and talents of these servants; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod give thanks to Almighty God for the services of these departed brethren and assure their survivors that we rejoice with them in the hope of everlasting life.

Action: Adopted (5).

(At the request of the Arthur Piepkorn family the floor committee replaced its tentative Res. 6-01 with 6-01A.)

To Clarify Status of Seminex

RESOLUTION 6-02

Overtures 6-32—6-49, 6-52A—6-69C (CW, pp. 328—339)

WHEREAS, The Synod at this convention is being requested to take positive steps toward healing the wounds caused by the differences which arose on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, by the mercies of God, would beseech those engaged in conducting and supporting Seminex to close the institution in the interest of promoting peace and harmony in our midst; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod herewith indicate that the J.P.T.E. (Seminex), if it continues to exist, will be regarded as any other theological school not affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: Adopted (5).

(The assembly declined a motion to postpone action on this resolution until action had been taken on Res. 3-10. It also declined a motion that no resolution regarding Seminex be considered. A request for termination of debate fell short of the required $\frac{2}{3}$ vote, 613 to 447. The delegates declined to consider a substitute motion asking Seminex professors to meet with the Board of Control and permitting Seminex to continue until the results of this meeting had been reported to the next convention. They also declined 1) a motion to ask a Seminex representative to state their reasons for their action, 2) a motion to change the whereas to read, "WHEREAS, The Synod at this convention has determined to dissolve Seminex," and 3) a motion to delete the first resolved. The resolution was adopted after the automatic call of the question had been carried by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. Since several inquiries had been received as to the number of votes being cast, the Secretary reported that as of 3:06 PM, Monday, 1,109 voting delegates had registered.)

To Increase Efforts in Recruitment

RESOLUTION 6-03

Overtures 6-133A—6-135, 6-140 (CW, pp. 357, 359)

WHEREAS, Recruitment efforts in the Synod have not kept pace with the ever-growing needs for professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, Enrollments at our colleges and seminaries give evidence that a shortage of professional workers will exist in the near future; and

WHEREAS, The Lord continues to bless our church in its present ministry and in its mission outreach; and

WHEREAS, The task force, appointed to study the Synod's system of higher education, has made some precise recommendations relative to recruitment and financial aid for potential students and professional workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod emphasize for all member congregations and for all their professional church workers that recruitment for church ministries is primarily their responsibility and therefore seriously urge them to:

a. Pray more fervently in public worship for more Christian boys and girls and men and women willing to enter the church ministries;

b. seek out such gifted students;

c. encourage them to study at one of our synodical institutions for professional church work;

d. seek ways to give them financial support; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Parish Education together with the Board for Higher Education continue to assist the congregations, the Districts, the synodical colleges, and the seminaries in expanding their recruitment efforts by:



College presidents and their wives

- a. providing promotional literature, addressing all age levels, beginning with age five through college;
- b. arranging for sponsors of District or regional recruitment workshops;
- c. directing recruitment of students in public universities and junior colleges;
- d. aiding college and seminary recruitment and admissions officers in their present efforts; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention urge each District to make recruitment for professional church workers a priority item on its next convention agenda.

Action: *Adopted as amended (5).*

(Amendment: restatement of first resolved and its first subparagraph.)

To Revise Colloquy Bylaws

RESOLUTION 6-04

Report 6-02 (CW, pp. 277—278); Overtures 6-86A, B; 5-108A, B (CW, pp. 247, 342—343)

Resolved, That the following revisions in the Bylaws for the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office be adopted:

PRESENT WORDING

4.55 Application for Admission

a. Applications of candidates for the pastoral ministry shall be directed to the President of the District where the application originates.

c. Lutheran parochial school teachers shall in addition to the above testimonials from the District President also present a recommendation from the superintendent of the schools of the District in which they have last served as teachers.

4.57 Eligibility

Only such applicants shall be considered eligible for admission to the pastoral colloquy program as are:

1. ministers, or candidates for the ministry, who are in good standing in Christian church bodies not in fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are graduates of recognized theological seminaries;

2. graduates of the Synod's teachers colleges who have had at least 5 years of teaching experience and are in good standing in the teaching ministry of the Synod.

4.61 Program of Instruction

a. Ministers, or candidates for the ministry, in good standing in Christian church bodies not in fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be expected to receive one full academic year of resident training in one of our Synod's seminaries. They shall also be required to serve a vicarage.

b. Graduates of the Synod's teachers colleges who have had at least 5 years of successful teaching experience shall be required to take a minimum of 2 years of instruction at one of the Synod's theological seminaries. They shall also be required to serve in a vicarage.

PROPOSED WORDING

4.55 Application for Admission

a. Applications for admission to the pastoral colloquy program shall be directed to the President of the District where the application originates.

c. Men whose names appear on the teaching roster as Lutheran parochial school teachers or directors of Christian education shall in addition to the above testimonials from the District President also present a recommendation from the superintendent of the schools or a comparable officer of the District in which they have last served as teachers or directors of Christian education.

4.57 Eligibility

Only such applicants shall be considered eligible for admission to the pastoral colloquy program as are:

1. ministers, or candidates for the ministry, who are in good standing in other Christian church bodies and are graduates of established theological seminaries;

2. graduates of the Synod's teachers colleges whose names appear on the roster of the Synod and who have had at least 5 years of successful experience as a Lutheran school teacher or director of Christian education and are in good standing in a congregation of the Synod;

3. members in good standing of synodical congregations who are graduates of an established nonsynodical seminary;

4. members in good standing of synodical congregations who are over the age of 40, are college graduates, and have had considerable experience in church work;

5. members in good standing of a synodical congregation who belong to a special ethnic or linguistic group, who have a college-level education, and who have had considerable experience in church work.

4.61 Program of Instruction

a. After admission to the pastoral colloquy program, a full final year of resident training in one of our Synod's seminaries, as well as a vicarage under synodical auspices, shall be expected of:

1. ministers, or candidates for the ministry, in good standing in other Lutheran church bodies;

2. members in good standing of synodical congregations who are graduates of an established nonsynodical Lutheran seminary.

b. After admission to the pastoral colloquy program, up to 2 full academic years of instruction at one of the Synod's theological seminaries, including not less than one full year in residence, as well as a vicarage under synodical auspices, shall be expected of:

1. ministers, or candidates for the ministry, in good standing in non-Lutheran Christian church bodies;

c. The board shall determine the course of study and the length of the vicarage for each applicant.

d. The courses given to colloquy applicants shall vary according to the needs and ecclesiastical background of the candidates, but they shall in general include courses in the major areas of theology. The criteria by which the board shall judge a man's progress are:

1. Readiness for admission to the office as demonstrated according to standards established by the Colloquy Board by—

aa. an acceptable level of achievement in the area of general education;

bb. satisfactory completion of a well-rounded and comprehensive training in all major fields of theology;

cc. satisfactory completion of a supervised vicarage.

2. In the case of men who have been educated in foreign lands with differing educational and ecclesiastical requirements who are expected to serve ethnic and special linguistic groups in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the board is authorized to waive or modify certain of the above-mentioned requirements in accord with the board's good judgment.

3. Before being declared qualified for the pastoral ministry in the Synod, the applicants shall submit satisfactory theological papers and sermons and pass comprehensive written and oral examinations in the major areas of theology.

4. They shall give evidence that they fully understand and accept the doctrinal standards of the Synod, are acquainted with its practice, and have the ability and intention to teach, preach, and practice in conformity with these standards.

2. graduates of a non-Lutheran seminary, in good standing in a synodical congregation;

3. graduates of the Synod's teachers colleges who have had at least 5 years of successful experience as a Lutheran teacher or director of Christian education.

c. After admission to the pastoral colloquy program, a minimum of 2 full academic years of instruction at one of the Synod's theological seminaries, at least 1½ years of which shall be in residence, as well as a vicarage under synodical auspices, shall be expected of:

1. members in good standing of synodical congregations who are over 40, are college graduates, and have had considerable experience in church work;

2. members in good standing of synodical congregations who belong to special ethnic or linguistic groups, who have a college-level education, and who have had considerable experience in church work.

d. The board shall determine the course of study and length of vicarage for each candidate on the basis of his needs and ecclesiastical background. In general, the course of study should include courses in the major areas of theology. In exceptional cases the board may regard special educational attainments or church work experience as meeting a portion of the aforementioned requirements provided that the Synod's high professional standards for the ministry are maintained.

e. The board may ask District Presidents or other qualified persons to assist them from time to time in special cases.

f. The criteria by which the board shall judge a man's progress are:

1. readiness for admission to the office as demonstrated according to standards established by the Colloquy Board by—

aa. an acceptable level of achievement in the area of general education;

bb. satisfactory completion of a well-rounded and comprehensive training in all major fields of theology;

cc. satisfactory completion of a supervised vicarage

2. Same

3. Before being declared qualified for the pastoral ministry in the Synod, the applicants shall submit satisfactory theological papers and sermons and pass comprehensive written and oral examinations in the major areas of theology under the direction of the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office.

4. Same

and be it finally

Resolved, That in adopting these Bylaw changes the Synod make the following exceptions:

1. That 1974 and 1975 Seminex graduates, not pre-

directed to make necessary provision for funds to expedite the transfer;

and be it further

2. *Resolved*, That the Board for Higher Education be directed to transfer Concordia Theological Seminary of Springfield, Ill., to the campus at Fort Wayne, Ind., by June 1, 1977; and be it further

3. *Resolved*, That the Board of Control of the Senior College be relieved of its duties and responsibilities after the transfer of property to Concordia Theological Seminary has been effected; and be it further

4. *Resolved*, That so much of the properties of the Springfield Seminary as are not required for synodical purposes be disposed of by the Board of Directors of the Synod and the proceeds therefrom be utilized in order to:

a. reimburse costs of relocation to and the capital improvements necessary on the Fort Wayne campus, and

b. the balance of funds, if any, be available to the Board for Higher Education for capital improvements of the system; and

That the Central Illinois District be given an opportunity through a committee of its choosing, under the auspices of the Board for Higher Education, to consider the possibility of purchasing this property for some educational purpose, and that this be given precedence over commercial offers to purchase the property;

and be it further

5. *Resolved*, That the Synod continue to maintain both the academy and the junior college departments of St. Paul's College, Concordia, Mo.; and be it further

6. *Resolved*, That all synodical schools be maintained in accordance with the newly proposed guidelines for future development of the synodical educational system and be directed to strengthen their program to attract and prepare students for full-time church service; and be it further

7. *Resolved*, That the Synod continue the development of Christ College Irvine, according to previous convention resolutions and that we respectfully request that the Board of Directors of the Synod use the proceeds from any sale of surplus educational property (except for that property being used by Concordia High School in Oakland) in California for capital improvements at Christ College Irvine; and be it further

8. *Resolved*, That the Board for Higher Education be requested to develop a procedure to endorse candidates from the Saskatoon Seminary that is consistent with the Constitution of the LCMS and to develop policy statements in consultation with Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, for the training of LCMS pastors at Saskatoon, and that these be presented to the next synodical convention; and be it further



Decision time

9. *Resolved*, That Concordia Theological Seminary at Springfield (Fort Wayne) be authorized to establish an extension program in Ontario at a site to be approved by the Ontario District in convention; and be it further

10. *Resolved*, That the Board for Higher Education be directed to formulate a policy of subsidy for our colleges and seminaries which gives priority in the allocation of synodical funds to the support of programs preparing students for full-time work in the church and that the Board for Higher Education direct that Christ College Irvine and all other synodical colleges be urgently encouraged to absorb the members of the faculty of Concordia Senior College by spring 1976; and be it further

11. *Resolved*, That the Board for Higher Education be directed to give special study to the task force report and present recommendations based on that report to the Synod in convention in 1977; and be it finally

12. *Resolved*, That each one of the synodical educational institutions include in their written report to the floor committee on Higher Education for the 1977 synodical convention indicating:

1. the college's view of its mission;
2. its educational philosophy in relation to its mission;
3. a plan for action to move towards achievement of its mission during the next biennium;
4. methods of evaluation to be employed to demonstrate programs in carrying out its mission.

Action: Adopted as amended (14 and 15).

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 6-08 with Res. 6-08A. In presenting its resolution in Session 11 the committee requested that each resolved be discussed separately. It stated that the four subparagraphs belonged under Resolved 1 instead of Resolved 2 as printed in *Today's Business*. See the Minutes of Sessions 11, 14 and 15 for a detailed report on the lengthy debate and actions taken. The assembly declined to add Concordia College, Milwaukee, in paragraphs 1a and 1c; to refer the entire resolution to the BHE for further study; to postpone action on Resolved 1 until Resolved 2 had been debated; to transfer Springfield to St. Louis; to donate the Springfield property to Seminex; to tie Ann Arbor course offerings in with the state university in Ann Arbor. The assembly did, however, approve the following insertions as amendments: Resolved 4: "That the Central Illinois District be given an opportunity through a committee . . ."; Resolved 7: "except for that property being used by Concordia High School in Oakland;" Resolved 8: "and to develop policy statements in consultation with Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, for the training of LCMS pastors at Saskatoon and that these be presented . . ."; Resolved 9: "in Ontario at a site approved . . . in convention;" Resolved 10: "and that the Board for Higher Education direct that Christ College Irvine and all other synodical colleges. . . ." All 12 resolveds as well as the 4 subparagraphs were approved seriatim, with only Resolveds 6 and 7 being combined. The motion to refer the entire resolution to the BHE for study failed by a vote of 456 to 518. Resolved 1 (main paragraph) was adopted 548 to 426.)

To Commend and Encourage Our College at Selma, Ala.

RESOLUTION 6-09

Report 6-20 (CW, p. 324)

WHEREAS, Alabama Lutheran Academy and College, Selma, Ala., under the leadership of President Willis Wright, has shown steady progress towards full accredi-

tation in both the high school and the college departments; and

WHEREAS, Continued improvements of the physical facilities have been made, considerable help having been received also from the Selma community; and

WHEREAS, Increased enrollments, resulting from an ambitious recruitment program, call for additional classrooms, an adequate library building, and a student union; and

WHEREAS, The college has an ongoing fund-raising program evidenced in the fine progress shown there; and

WHEREAS, Continued recruitment for black church workers and the perpetuation of our college in the black community is of extreme importance in our church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend Dr. Willis Wright and the entire Selma College community for their excellent performance this past biennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education be encouraged to continue to support our ministry there with increased subsidy as funds become available; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the Board of Control, the faculty, and the staff to continue their efforts for full accreditation; and be it finally

Resolved, That the adequate library facility proposed for Alabama Lutheran Academy and College at Selma constitute the number-one priority in new construction within the synodical system of colleges and seminaries.

Action: Adopted (15).

To Establish Hispanic-American Seminary Project in Austin

RESOLUTION 6-10

Overtures 6-136, 6-141, 6-142 (CW, pp. 358—359)

WHEREAS, The Lord has opened new mission doors for us in Hispanic ministries; and

WHEREAS, The New Orleans convention already addressed itself to this subject and directed funds for this purpose (Res. 6-22); and

WHEREAS, Concordia College at Austin, Tex., has expressed its willingness to be helpful in this endeavor; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention request the Board for Higher Education to further implement the project of Hispanic missions; and be it further

Resolved, That the training program for this ministry be centered on the campus of Concordia College at Austin as an extension program of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill., and other necessary locations under the supervision of the Board for Higher Education.

Action: Adopted as amended (15).

(Amendment: the final words, "and other necessary....")

To Establish Hispanic-American Seminar Project

RESOLUTION 6-10A

(Replacing Resolution 6-10)

Overtures 6-136, 6-141, 6-142 (CW, pp. 358—359)

WHEREAS, The Lord has opened new mission doors for us in Hispanic ministries; and

WHEREAS, The New Orleans convention already addressed itself to this subject, directing the Board for Higher Education "to establish and develop special curricula and arrangements at selected colleges and seminaries for the training of future workers" (N.O. Res. 6-22) and authorizing funds to support this work; and

WHEREAS, Important work in Hispanic ministries has already been begun on several campuses; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention direct the Board for Higher Education to further develop and coordinate existing projects in Hispanic ministries and generate similar programs in other locations.

Action: Replaced by Res. 6-10.

(The committee had replaced its tentative Res. 6-10 with Res. 6-10A. However, the convention resolved to consider Res. 6-10 as a substitute for Res. 6-10A and after amending it subsequently adopted Res. 6-10.)

To Adopt Handbook Regulations for Lay Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-11A

(Replacing Resolution 6-11)

Overture 6-03 (CW, pp. 278—280), N.O. Res. 6-27

WHEREAS, The Board for Lay Ministers was formed following the Milwaukee convention in 1971; and

WHEREAS, This board has organized itself and has since 1972 worked in cooperation with the Lay Ministry Program of Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis., as an extension of this institution; and

WHEREAS, Effective work has been done by this board; and

WHEREAS, The New Orleans Resolution 6-27, which contained suggested *Handbook* regulations governing this board, was submitted to the 1973 convention for adoption; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 6-27 was referred; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Lay Ministers be commended for its effective work; and be it further

Resolved, That the following *Handbook* regulations be adopted:

4.101 Board for Lay Ministers

a. *Membership.* The Board for Lay Ministers shall consist of one District President, one parish pastor, one member of a synodical seminary faculty, one member representing the lay ministry program at Concordia College, Milwaukee, a Vice-President of the Synod, who shall serve as chairman, and the Executive Secre-

tary of the Board for Higher Education or his representative in an advisory capacity.

Full-time or part-time staff may be engaged by the board as conditions may warrant and require, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

b. *Election.* The voting members of this board shall be elected with overlapping terms by the Council of Presidents.

c. *Functions.* The Board for Lay Ministers shall—

1. direct the colloquy program for lay ministry according to regulations adopted by the Synod;

2. serve as the Advisory Council to Concordia College, Milwaukee, in its lay ministry program;

3. work in harmony and cooperation with the lay ministry program of Concordia College, Milwaukee, of which it is an extension;

4. establish the academic and theological standards for admission to the lay ministry by colloquy, in consultation with the faculty of Concordia College, Milwaukee;

5. approve for admission to the colloquy program for lay ministry those applicants who meet the preliminary requirements;

6. examine applicants as to readiness for acceptance into the lay ministry of the Synod, recommend approved candidates to the Board of Assignments for placement, and provide guidelines for their supervision; and

7. make a full report of its activities to every convention of the Synod.

4.102 Eligibility

Applicants shall be at least 20 years old, or have 2 years of college, and agree to have administered prescribed aptitude, achievement, personality, and vocational entrance tests. Personal interviews may be required.

4.103 Application for Admission

a. Applications of men and women for admission to the lay ministry colloquy program shall be directed to Concordia College, Milwaukee. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Complete background information setting forth clearly the applicant's background, religious affiliation, previous church-work activity and experience, employment record, formal and informal education, and reasons for wishing to qualify for lay ministry service in the Synod.

2. Official transcripts of the applicant's secondary and collegiate training and a full description of non-credit academic work done by the applicant.

3. Testimonials as to Christian character and life, personality, ability, and previous service from the applicant's pastor and two references from previous employers or persons who have observed the applicant for at least 2 years.

4. A letter of endorsement from the applicant's District President.

4.104 Publication of Applicant's Request

The name of an applicant requesting admission to the lay ministry program shall be published in the official periodical of the Synod after his application has been endorsed by the District President and approved by the Colloquy Board. If no valid objection is filed within 4 weeks after publication of such notice, the colloquy procedure may continue.

4.105 Academic and Theological Requirements

Applicants for admission to lay ministry by colloquy shall be expected to meet the following academic and theological requirements before their final examination by the board:

a. A college program culminating in the Associate in Arts degree or its demonstrated equivalent.

b. The completion of required courses or their

equivalent in the areas of general education, Christian doctrine, Biblical interpretation, church history, and practice, to meet the academic and theological standards established by the board.

c. Evidence of successful service in a church agency within the Synod prior to regular placement in the church.

d. Residence at a synodical college as determined necessary or desirable by the board.

4.106 Placement

a. The board shall recommend placement of those applicants who have satisfactorily completed their colloquy studies and passed their colloquy examination.

b. The board shall report its action to the President of the District in which the candidate resides and publish a report of its favorable action in the official periodicals of the Synod.

c. Every applicant whom the board declares qualified for lay ministry shall be assigned his first placement by the Board of Assignments.

4.107 Service and Supervision

a. Male lay ministers are licensed, not ordained, to serve in all areas of the ministry of the Word when authorized by a local congregation and supervised by an ordained pastor.

b. Women engaged in this area of the church's work are licensed to serve in such areas of the ministry of the Word as are authorized by a local congregation and supervised by an ordained pastor, except in those functions distinctive to the pastoral office.

c. The President of the District in which a lay minister is assigned shall be responsible for his supervision, which, however, may be delegated to another ordained pastor in the District. If a lay minister is assigned to a congregation, he shall serve under the supervision of his own pastor. The District President shall approve all reassignments of lay ministers within his District.

d. If a lay minister wishes to accept an assignment in a District other than the one in which he is serving, his transfer requires the approval of both District Presidents.

e. Lay ministers may serve as lay delegates to conventions of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (15).*

To Restructure Irvine Board of Control

RESOLUTION 6-12

Overture 6-103 (CW, p. 349)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod assembled in Cleveland in 1962, Resolution 1-22, established the plan for the organization of a Lutheran College in Southern California, now known as Christ College Irvine; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Resolution 1-22 indicates that the Board of Control of this college "is to consist of the District President, two pastors, one teacher, and three laymen"; and

WHEREAS, It was not the intention of Committee 1 of the Cleveland convention to set up a different permanent ratio of Board of Control members than that which presently exists at other synodical colleges; therefore be it

Resolved, That the membership of the Board of Control of Christ College Irvine be the same as that designated for other synodical colleges in Bylaw 6.23 a 2: "at

least five and no more than nine members. . . . The elective members shall include one to three pastors, one or two teachers, and three to five laymen."

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Maintain Highest Accreditation

RESOLUTION 6-13

Overtures 6-83—6-85B (CW, p. 342)

WHEREAS, Accreditation is of considerable importance to the program of theological study of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Synod is committed to such a program of quality education at its seminaries and colleges and has sought to follow a precise program of preparation for proper accreditation, always keeping in mind that it wants and needs to exercise doctrinal supervision over these institutions; and

WHEREAS, Presently a probation still exists on the accreditation of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Control, the administration, and the faculty of Concordia Seminary have made every effort to maintain a program that meets and exceeds the Association of Theological Schools standards; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct the Board for Higher Education, the Boards of Control, the administration, and the faculties of both seminaries and all its colleges to continue to maintain the highest standards for accreditation; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Control of Concordia Seminary take whatever immediate action necessary to remove the probation and, above all, keep its goals, purposes, and curriculum in keeping with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Encourage the Development of Three Graduate Programs

RESOLUTION 6-14A

(Replacing Resolution 6-14)

Overture 6-07 (CW, p. 310—311)

WHEREAS, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, is in the process of developing a program for the Doctor of Ministry degree; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, is also working on the development of a Master of Sacred Theology and a Master of Arts in Religion program; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage them in their efforts to develop these graduate programs.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Promote Continuing Education

RESOLUTION 6-15

Overture 6-147 (CW, p. 360); N.O. Res. 6-03 (CW, p. 444)

WHEREAS, The ministry of all professional church workers continues to change and become more complex; and

WHEREAS, Continuing professional education is a valuable asset in performing this ministry; and

WHEREAS, In the past such continuing education has been sought by only a small percentage of the total number of church workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education continue its efforts to make available a variety of educational programs for the church's professional workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations through their Circuit Counselors be asked to make time and funds available to their full-time workers for such continuing education; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Circuit Counselors recommend to all church workers of their circuits that they take advantage of the programs of continuing education made available to them.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Prepare Guidelines for a Director of Christian Education

RESOLUTION 6-16A

(Replacing Resolution 6-16)

Overture 6-125 (CW, p. 354)

WHEREAS, There is an increasing demand from congregations of the Synod for the services of a director of Christian Education and no parameters for this office have been outlined, making it difficult for local congregations in determining their reasonable expectations for this called minister; and

WHEREAS, The academic institutions of the Synod are in need of direction in the preparation of specific courses leading to a degree with specific qualifications for this unique ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education perform the following services:

1. Prepare guidelines to assist the Synod in its understanding of the function of a director of Christian Education:

2. Prepare a glossary of terms defining the distinctive properties of a DCE as opposed to the other ministries of Christian education in the church;

3. Utilize the expertise of the Lutheran Education Association in the preparation of these guidelines; and be it further

Resolved, That the BHE prepare an overture for the

next synodical convention leading to the inclusion of the director of Christian Education into the colloquy procedures of the synodical *Handbook*.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Designate Graduate School and Faculty Training Program

RESOLUTION 6-17

Overtures 6-143, 6-144 (CW, pp. 359—360)

WHEREAS, There is a constant need for faithful and learned servants of Jesus Christ and His church who can serve as professors and teachers; and

WHEREAS, Experience has shown that there can be great blessings when those who train our future pastors and teachers receive their postgraduate theological education in a confessional Lutheran seminary; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has indicated willingness to develop a program and center for advanced work in theology; and

WHEREAS, A synodically supported and governed graduate theological institution could be a source of blessing to us and also to faithful ministers, teachers, and scholars in other Lutheran and Christian fellowships; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to develop an expanded graduate school of theology which could serve as a center for confessional scholars and teachers in our fellowship and in others; and be it further

Resolved, That we ask the Board for Higher Education to work together with the seminary in this worthy and ambitious project.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Support Autonomy of Boards of Control

RESOLUTION 6-18

Overture 6-26 (CW, p. 326)

WHEREAS, The Boards of Control of our colleges and seminaries are vital to the confessional faithfulness and integrity of our institutions; and

WHEREAS, These boards are composed of clergy, teachers, and laity who are well acquainted with local conditions in church and state; and

WHEREAS, Secular influences and pressures of public relations have sometimes challenged the specific churchly and spiritual concerns and actions of these responsible leaders; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend our Boards of Control for their faithful concern and actions on behalf of Christian higher education in the Lutheran confessional tradition.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Eliminate Honorary Degrees

RESOLUTION 6-25

Overture 6-132 (CW, p. 357)

WHEREAS, It has been traditional and customary for both seminaries and colleges of the LCMS to grant honorary degrees as a part of their educational program; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 6-132.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Support Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Library Policy

RESOLUTION 6-26

Overtures 6-72A—6-73C (CW, pp. 339—340)

WHEREAS, There are indications that some Seminex individuals do not agree with the position of opposition and God's judgment toward Concordia Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Limited use of Concordia Seminary library facilities is available to all such individuals; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod consider the concerns of the overture to have been satisfied.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline Overtures Asking that Actions of the St. Louis Board of Control Be Reversed

RESOLUTION 6-27

Overtures 6-76—6-78C, 6-80, 6-150—6-152 (CW, pp. 340—341, 361—362)

WHEREAS, Dr. John Tietjen has been removed from the office of president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., on the basis of charges of false doctrine and malfeasance in the conduct of his office; and

WHEREAS, The actions of the Board of Control in this matter were carried out in harmony with the procedures outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John Tietjen has had opportunity to avail himself of appeal procedures provided by the Constitution and Bylaws but has chosen not to appeal his case; and

WHEREAS, The final disposition of the case has not yet been made; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod permit the orderly procedure prescribed for this and other similar matters to be followed; and be it further

Resolved, That the above overtures be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Affirm Action of the BHE Regarding Academic Freedom

RESOLUTION 6-28

Overtures 6-113—6-114, 6-116—6-117 (CW, pp. 351—353)

WHEREAS, Every convention of the Synod since 1962 has pleaded with the members of the Synod "by the mercies of God" to "honor and uphold" synodically adopted doctrinal statements; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has interpreted "honor and uphold" as meaning "not merely to examine and study them, but to support, act, and teach in accordance with them until they have been shown to be contrary to God's Word" (Milwaukee *Proceedings*, Res. 2-21); and

WHEREAS, The Synod also holds that every member, by virtue of his agreement when he *voluntarily* joined the Synod and *freely* placed himself under the provisions of the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws, is bound by the Word of God expressed in the Synod's resolutions until it can be demonstrated that a resolution is *in fact* "not in accordance with the Word of God"; otherwise the Synod holds that its resolutions are to be considered "of binding force if they are in accordance with the Word of God" (Bylaw 1.09 b), and the Synod permits no member to teach or practice in violation of a resolution simply on the grounds that he does not agree with it or that it is in conflict with his private persuasion (Milwaukee *Proceedings*, Res. 2-21); and

WHEREAS, The Policy Statement on Limitation of Academic Freedom adopted by the Board for Higher Education is taken from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and from resolutions of the Synod regarding the status of synodically adopted doctrinal statements; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has affirmed and reaffirmed its position "that such statements, insofar as they are in accord with the Scriptures and the pattern of doctrine set forth in the Lutheran Symbols, are, pursuant to Article II of the Synod's Constitution, binding upon all its members" (New Orleans *Proceedings*, Res. 2-12); and

WHEREAS, The Policy Statement on Limitation of Academic Freedom permits those who judge the synodically adopted doctrinal statements to be out of harmony with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions to express their dissent in a responsible and orderly way; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod affirm its right and duty to expect that its doctrinal position, based on Article II of the Constitution (the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions) and as applied to contemporary theological issues, be faithfully and fairly taught in the classrooms of its colleges and seminaries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod affirm the action of the BHE in adopting the Policy Statement on Limitation of Aca-

democratic Freedom for use at our colleges and seminaries, to wit:

Faculty members are pledged to the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions. They are expected to honor, to uphold, and to teach in accordance with the synodically adopted doctrinal statements which express the convictions of fathers and brethren with whom all members of the Synod are united in their obedience to the Scriptures and the Confessions.

Faculty members are encouraged to study the synodically adopted doctrinal statements as well as the Scriptures and the Confessions. Should they judge the synodically adopted doctrinal statements to be out of harmony with the Scriptures and the Confessions, they are to test their findings and opinions with their peer group, namely, the faculty and the Board of Control of the institution of which they are a part, and then to present them to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations before bringing them to the Synod itself. Meanwhile they are to refrain in brotherly love from disseminating such dissident findings as doctrinal opinions in the classroom and/or among the students, as well as in other situations and places as will cause confusion and offense in the church.

Examples of pertinent synodical statements are in *Handbook* Sections 1.09 e and 4.21; Resolution 3-17 of the 1962 convention; Resolution 2-08 of 1965; Resolution 2-04 of 1967; Resolution 2-27 of 1969; Resolution 2-21 of 1971; Resolution 2-12 of 1973; and Resolution 3-01 of 1973.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Recruit and Place Black Students

RESOLUTION 6-29

Overture 6-127 (CW, pp. 355—366)

WHEREAS, The need for black Lutheran pastors and teachers is of crisis proportions; and

WHEREAS, Experience has shown that it is difficult to recruit young black Christians for full-time church service; therefore be it

Resolved, That we direct the Board for Higher Education to coordinate the development of a vigorous program of recruitment in consultation with the Association of Black Lutheran Clergymen; and be it further

Resolved, That the education and training process recognize the special needs of black students in matters of curriculum, instructional staff, and social life; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Assignments avoid discrimination in the assignment of black pastors, vicars, and teachers.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

7. PARISH SERVICES

To Strengthen Sunday Schools for Nurture and Evangelism

RESOLUTION 7-01

Report 7-01, Res. 2 (CW, p. 373)

WHEREAS, The Sunday programs of Christian education for all age levels continue to be primary agencies for evangelism in our modern culture and for the continuing Christian nurture of a large majority of our members as well as many nonmembers; and

WHEREAS, The sharply declining enrollments in the Sunday programs of our Synod suggest that many congregations may be losing interest in their Sunday schools and that the Sunday programs are not as effective in either evangelism or Christian nurture as they could be; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod declare 1977 as a year for devoting major attention to the improvement of the quality of our Sunday schools and to the cultivation of their potential for a ministry of evangelism; and be it further

Resolved, That every congregation of the Synod be urged to study its Sunday school and possible weekday school and Bible study programs and take the necessary steps to improve the quality of instruction and to involve more participants in both the congregation and its community; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod's Board of Parish Education be instructed and funded to develop District and congregational resources that will attain the above stated goals.

Action: Adopted as amended (3).

(Amendment: insertion of "and possible weekday school and Bible study.")

To Emphasize Christian Nurture at the 1977 Synodical Convention

RESOLUTION 7-02

Report 7-01, Res. 4 (CW, p. 373)

WHEREAS, The Great Commission of the Lord calls His church to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has throughout its long tradition placed a high priority on teaching and learning the Gospel of Christ in a variety of settings; and

WHEREAS, Conditions in the world today give increasing evidence of the need for Christian education and continuing nurture for persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, The very proper emphasis on evangelism in this the 51st regular convention provides an appropriate springboard to a subsequent emphasis on Christian nurture; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the President of the Synod and others responsible for the planning of the 1977 synodical convention to select and implement a theme and a convention program that emphasize Christian education and nurture.

Action: Adopted (3).

To Provide Resources for Parents

RESOLUTION 7-03

Overture 7-20 (CW, p. 390); N.O. Res. 7-03

WHEREAS, Scripture gives to parents the blessed privilege of helping their children live in a faithful relationship with God and likewise tells children to receive gladly such wisdom from their parents; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther emphasizes these Biblical teachings in his explanation of the Fourth Commandment in the Large Catechism when he writes: "He (God) has given and entrusted children to us with the command that we train and govern them according to His will; otherwise God would have no need of father and mother. Therefore let everybody know that it is his chief duty, on pain of losing divine grace, to bring up his children in the fear and knowledge of God"; and

WHEREAS, Families who make religious education an important part of home life share with one another God's love and forgiveness and open the doors to better interpersonal understanding; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage the Board of Parish Education to develop further resources that will help parents nurture their children in the Christian faith in the family setting, with special attention to the unique needs of families in minority communities.

Action: Adopted as amended (3).

(The resolved was amended by inserting "further" and by adding the words "with special attention. . .")

To Help Young Adults in the Church Find Meaning

RESOLUTION 7-04

Report 7-02, Rec. 5 (CW, p. 377)

WHEREAS, There are many young adults in the membership of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (350,000 is a reasonable estimate) who are single; and

WHEREAS, The patterns used in the church might cause single persons to feel unneeded and even unwanted; and

WHEREAS, Many of these young adults are attempting to live out a Christian commitment in family, community, or parish; therefore be it

Resolved, That the parishes of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be encouraged to gather information regarding the needs of single young adults in their

parish and together with young adults develop ways to minister to these needs; and be it further

Resolved, That the parishes of the Synod encourage young adults to become trained and active in the mission and ministry of the church; and be it finally

Resolved, That a synodical youth gathering be sponsored to encourage young adults in their commitment to the service of Jesus Christ under the Word of God.

Action: *Adopted as amended (3).*

(The assembly deleted the final words of the first whereas, "and who are involved in meaningful occupations" and substituted the second and third resolves for the resolved that had read: "That the parishes of the Synod encourage young adults to discover meaningful ways to be in ministry within the church (i.e., young adult groups, church choirs, educational and volunteer agencies of the church, the International Lutheran Young Adults—Missouri Synod.)"

To Support Youth Ministry

RESOLUTION 7-05

Report 7-02, Rec. 1—4, 6—8 (CW, pp. 377-378); N.O. Res. 7-20, 7-21

WHEREAS, The Lord of the church has blessed The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with people who have a strong commitment to youth ministry; and

WHEREAS, The research reported in *Bridging the Gap* and *Five Cries of Youth* has demonstrated that a ministry with youth requires clear communication of the whole Word of God, necessitates equipping youth for faithful service to God, and requires settings where youth can demonstrate the mission of the church in word and life; and

WHEREAS, Such ministry with youth is becoming a more complex and challenging ministry and is of prime importance; and

WHEREAS, Funding for youth ministry in the Synod has steadily declined since 1968, with the result that staff had to be reduced in 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Synod does not want youth ministry to be given a declining priority; therefore be it



Some of the youth reps

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its strong commitment to youth ministry and in keeping with that commitment provide the financial resources necessary for effective ministry with youth in the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to carry out an aggressive youth ministry, utilizing programs offered by the Board of Youth Ministry (e.g., "Lead Out" kit for developing adult leaders for youth ministry; and "Youth Effectiveness Training," a model for increasing skills for effective communication for youth and adults); and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Youth Ministry be encouraged to implement the recommendations and priorities included in its report to the Synod.

Action: *Adopted as amended (3).*

(Amendments: "whole Word of God" for "Gospel" in the second whereas; "challenging" for "difficult" in the third whereas; the addition of "and is of prime importance." A later motion to end the second resolved after the words "aggressive youth ministry" was defeated.)

To Transfer Television Ministry to Lutheran Laymen's League

RESOLUTION 7-06

Report 4-04, App. 4-04C, 7-09; Overture 7-38 (CW, pp. 148—149, 384—388, 393—394)

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Laymen's League's sponsorship of mass communications programming of The Lutheran Hour is now in its 42d year; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Hour broadcasts provide the Gospel message to millions of persons around the world; and

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Laymen's League has long had an interest in expanding their mass communication broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Laymen's League has subsidized the Lutheran Television Ministry, "This Is the Life," since 1967 and is currently providing \$625,000, nearly 70% of the expenditures for this ministry; and

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Laymen's League, upon request, has determined that the League can effectively administer the Television Ministry on behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod transfer the administration of Lutheran Television to the International Lutheran Laymen's League, effective Feb. 1, 1976; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod subsidize the International Lutheran Laymen's League for television ministry in the years 1976, 1977, and 1978 in a decreasing amount starting with \$300,000 in 1976; starting in the fiscal year 1979 the television ministry of "This Is the Life" and all special mass communications productions shall be the financial and administrative responsibility of the International Lutheran Laymen's League; and be it further

Resolved, That the International Lutheran Laymen's League provide coordination, production, distribution, and follow-up capabilities of various television ministry programs of synodical departments, such as evangelism and education; and be it further

Resolved, That the mission outreach and public service potential of television be fully developed by the various synodical departments in coordination with the International Lutheran Laymen's League; and be it further

Resolved, That effective Feb. 1, 1976, the current Board for Lutheran Television cease to operate and that two members of the International Lutheran Laymen's League's Television Committee be appointed by the synodical Board of Directors who shall serve on the committee in addition to the Board of Directors' liaison representative to the International Lutheran Laymen's League; and be it further

Resolved, That any television programing produced and distributed by the International Lutheran Laymen's League shall always indicate the "tag lines" identifying the relationship of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and individuals be commended for their past support and be urged to intensify their support for this vital ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That all contracts for programing and personnel be the responsibility of the International Lutheran Laymen's League as of Feb. 1, 1976; during the interim period between the 1975 synodical convention and Feb. 1, 1976, any new contracts be mutually agreed to by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Board of Directors and the International Lutheran Laymen's League; and be it finally

Resolved, That *Handbook* Bylaw 12.51 be changed to read:

PRESENT WORDING

12.51 Board for Lutheran Television

a. *Personnel*. The Board for Lutheran Television shall consist of seven members appointed by the Board of Directors, and as long as the Lutheran Laymen's League participates in the sponsorship of the Synod's television ministry, four additional members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors of the Lutheran Laymen's League. Two members of the board shall be pastors. In making board appointments, attention shall be given to the special concerns of the board.

PROPOSED WORDING

12.51 Provision for Television Ministry

a. *Responsibility*. The responsibility for television ministry is assigned to the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

b. *Liaison*. A member of the Board of Directors of the Synod shall serve as liaison representative for television ministry to the International Lutheran Laymen's League. In addition, two members of the Television Committee of the International Lutheran Laymen's League shall be appointed by the synodical Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of the Synod shall determine tenure and terms of office.

Action: Adopted as amended (3).

(The word "International" was inserted throughout. The third-last resolved was added by amendment.)

To Ratify the Action of the Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals

RESOLUTION 7-07

Report 7-05 (CW, pp. 380—381)

WHEREAS, In recent years circulation of the Synod's German-language official periodical, *Der Lutheraner*, declined to 2,700; and

WHEREAS, Already in 1969 the editorial commission had determined that *Der Lutheraner* should be discontinued when its circulation fell below 3,500; and

WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents on Dec. 5, 1974, concurred in the decision to discontinue publication of *Der Lutheraner*; and

WHEREAS, The *Lutheran Witness Reporter*, conforming to a regulation of the U.S. Postal Service requiring publications to have separate subscription lists with subscribers ordering each publication separately, is no longer a separate publication but has been absorbed as the "Reporter Edition" of the *Witness*; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod ratify the action of the Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals relative to discontinuing *Der Lutheraner* and making the *Lutheran Witness Reporter* the "Reporter Edition" of the *Lutheran Witness*; and be it further

Resolved, That paragraph 11.81 in the Synod's *Handbook* be changed to read:

PRESENT WORDING

11.81 Official Periodicals

The *Lutheran Witness*, the *Lutheran Witness Reporter*, and *Der Lutheraner* shall be official periodicals of the Synod. Official reports and notices shall be published in the *Lutheran Witness Reporter*.

PROPOSED WORDING

11.81 The Official Periodical

The *Lutheran Witness* shall be the official periodical of the Synod and shall include official reports and notices.

and be it further

Resolved, That paragraph 11.85 a be changed to read:

11.85 Editors

a. The editors of the *Lutheran Witness*, the *Lutheran Witness Reporter*, and *Der Lutheraner* shall be appointed by the Editorial commission from a list approved by the Council of Presidents.

11.85 The Editors

a. The editors of the *Lutheran Witness* shall be appointed by the Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals from a list approved by the Council of Presidents.

and be it finally

Resolved, That the convention instruct the Commission on Constitutional Matters to make such changes in

the synodical *Handbook* as may result from the discontinuance of *Der Lutheraner* and of the *Lutheran Witness Reporter* as a separate publication.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Encourage Subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness*

RESOLUTION 7-08

Report 7-05; Overtures 7-35, 7-36A, 7-36B (CW, pp. 380—381, 393)

WHEREAS, The purpose of the *Lutheran Witness* is to inform members of the Synod about the work of carrying out the objects of the Synod, such as conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith, the joint extension of the kingdom of God, the training of professional workers in the church, on a national and international level; and

WHEREAS, The *Witness* District Editions present additional information concerning the local work of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention appeal to the Board of Directors and congregations of each District, especially those where the percentage of homes receiving the *Witness* and the District Edition is low, to consider ways and means of encouraging subscriptions to our official synodical periodical so that the members of the Synod are informed about and motivated to participate more fully in the work of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted as amended (8).*

("and congregations" was added to the resolved.)

To Encourage Attendance at Youth Gatherings

RESOLUTION 7-09

Overture 7-31 (CW, p. 392); N.O. Res. 7-25

WHEREAS, Large Lutheran youth gatherings and programs can provide experiences that are Christ-centered and spiritually rewarding; and

WHEREAS, Such gatherings and programs involving the youth and adults of the Synod are to be developed and conducted within the fellowship principles of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The persons responsible for planning the 1976 All Lutheran Youth/Adult Gathering have given the assurance that they are mindful of the legitimate concern that the program and speakers are such as will provide genuine opportunity for positive Christian growth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the youth and adults of the Synod be encouraged to participate in such Lutheran youth gatherings and programs (e.g., the 1976 All Lutheran Youth/Adult Gathering) where the Synod's fellowship principles are observed; and be it further

Resolved, That our Districts and circuits be encouraged to arrange youth gatherings and programs at their levels.

Action: *Adopted as amended (8).*

(The final resolved was added by amendment.)

To Educate for Mission and Promote the Program of the Synod

RESOLUTION 7-10

Report 4-08, II (CW, p. 171—172)

WHEREAS, A thorough evaluation of the Synod's mission education program has been carried on during the past biennium by a special study action team, the Stewardship Board and staff, and through semiannual regional meetings of District stewardship leaders; and

WHEREAS, The mission education program has been restyled, and field testing has shown it to be interesting and appealing to users, effective in communicating desired concerns and vital mission concepts, pointing toward desired educational outcomes, and challenging Christians and the congregations to place their natural and spiritual endowments at the Lord's disposal for His world mission; and

WHEREAS, A growing field force has been developed, including specifically selected and trained appointees, as well as regular District stewardship leaders, to give special attention to "education for mission"; and

WHEREAS, It has been found that the current mission education program makes possible a large enough market so that quality mission education products can be produced for purchase, if reasonable cooperation is received from pastors and congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the present mission education program and promotion of the synodical program and services be intensified and expanded to inform and inspire the Synod's members for vigorous involvement in their Christ-given mission; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Stewardship be enabled, with staffing and funding during the next 2 years, to pilot annual regional "mission conferences," as other denominations have done in mission promotion; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and Districts be urged to select qualified mission education representatives and send them annually to leaders' "skillsshops" for ongoing training about the ever-changing mission scene; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be urged to make use of the wide variety of mission education materials offered through the Department of Stewardship, so that a market allowing production of materials at a reasonable cost continues to exist and quality mission education tools can continue to be produced; and be it finally

Resolved, That all congregational materials be sent to congregations rather than the pastors.

Action: *Adopted as amended (9).*

(This resolution was introduced in Session 8. The final resolved was added by amendment.)

To Provide for Stewardship Education and Cultivation

RESOLUTION 7-11

Overture 7-32; Report 4-08, II (CW, pp. 392, 171—172)

WHEREAS, The value and necessity of stewardship as a congregational program and ministry is not fully accepted by every congregation; and

WHEREAS, Stewardship as a ministry is a way of looking at life and all its resources as gifts from God to be used in His mission; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod urge that a stewardship committee or its equivalent be established in those congregations that do not have such a functioning group (Cf. *Handbook* 15.15 Congregational Boards); and be it further

Resolved, That the congregational stewardship committees be activated to provide plans, leadership, and funding for an ongoing ministry embracing the total stewardship of the Christian life; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to invite District stewardship leaders to meet with them to counsel and aid them in planning and implementing a year-round stewardship program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod's Stewardship Department, assisted by the Board of Parish Education, intensify its efforts to produce quality stewardship-cultivation materials for congregations (e.g., Bible studies, stewardship topics and sermons, materials for children and youth); and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod be urged to make available sufficient funding for these intensified efforts.

Action: Adopted (9).

To Encourage Every-Member Visit

RESOLUTION 7-12

Overture 7-33; Report 4-08, II (CW, pp. 392, 171—172)

WHEREAS, The Every-Member Stewardship Visit has proved to be an effective plan for strengthening the members of a congregation by —

1. winning them for a deeper commitment of their lives to Christ and His cause by strengthening the bonds of Christian fellowship;

2. acquainting them with the God-given purposes of a Christian congregation;

3. developing lay leadership to promote more effectively "our Father's business";

4. cultivating the grace of proportionate giving and encouraging the members to provide Christ-honoring gifts adequate for the total mission both at home and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Studies (North American Inter-Church Study) indicate that congregations which conduct traditional every-member stewardship visits each year find that their family units give from \$190 to \$290 more per year than those that do not use an EMSV; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations are using abbreviated and less effective methods of confrontation; therefore be it

Resolved, That our congregations be encouraged to reevaluate their past methodology and consider using the "person to person" EMSV approach at least every other year; and be it further

Resolved, That during the next biennium the Synod's Department of Stewardship encourage and assist District Stewardship Boards to conduct area EMSV seminars to enable them to be more effective in this approach; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to allocate sufficient funds and personnel to avail themselves of the materials and training provided by the stewardship staff of the Synod and its Districts; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod be urged to allocate sufficient funds to the Board of Stewardship to make possible the production of such materials and the conducting of these seminars.

Action: Adopted (9)

To Encourage Use of Family Money-Management Program

RESOLUTION 7-13

Overture 7-34; Report 4-08, II (CW, pp. 393, 171—172)

WHEREAS, Family Financial (Money) Management is designed to enable Christian people to live more meaningfully and joyfully under the Gospel in managing their tangible wealth; and

WHEREAS, People of all ages are confronted with money management; and

WHEREAS, "Making ends meet" is one of the major social problems in North America; and

WHEREAS, Personal bankruptcies in the U.S. are increasing at a very high rate; and

WHEREAS, Family financial planning is essential to the economic survival of the family; and

WHEREAS, Secular wisdom and skills in family financial planning are considered in context with Christian value systems and family solidarity; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod urge congregations to encourage families and single adults of the LCMS to avail themselves of the money-management program sponsored by District and synodical leaders and other agencies.

Action: Adopted (9)

To Reaffirm the Synod's Process of Doctrinal Review

RESOLUTION 7-14

Overtures 7-18A—7-18E, 7-24—7-26, 7-30A—7-30B (CW, pp. 389—392)

WHEREAS, A primary objective of the Synod is "the conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith" (Constitution, Art. III, 1); and

WHEREAS, The office of the President of the Synod is charged with "the supervision regarding the doctrine . . . of the Synod" (Constitution, Art. XI, B, 1); and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod carries out his responsibility of supervision of doctrine through the biennial appointment of doctrinal reviewers (69 persons have served in this role during the past biennium); and

WHEREAS, Proposed publications of the Synod's boards and commissions and Concordia Publishing House are not permitted to be published without certification by a doctrinal reviewer that the content of the items is "in agreement in their doctrinal content with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions" (*Handbook* 11.157 c); and

WHEREAS, This program insures careful scrutiny of all materials to assure agreement of their doctrinal character with Scriptures and the Confessions and has provided to the Synod a steady flow of reliable and valuable materials for the upbuilding of the saints; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its determination to continue the practice of having all of the material published by its boards and commissions read carefully by presidentially appointed doctrinal reviewers to insure that these materials are in agreement with Scripture and the Confessions; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and members of the Synod accept as their continued responsibility to send evaluations of the doctrinal content of published materials to the President, the Board of Doctrinal Review, and the sponsoring board or commission; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its desire to have the President appoint to the position of doctrinal review experienced persons of good judgment who are well grounded in the Scriptures and the Confessions.

Action: Adopted (9)

(The assembly declined a motion to recommit. An amendment to add "and doctrinal resolutions of the Synod" to the 4th and 5th whereases and to the 1st and 3d resolves was ruled out of order. The delegates declined to add to the last resolved the words "and who are reflective of all established doctrinal views in the Synod.")

To Encourage Publication of "New Life in Christ" Sunday School Materials

RESOLUTION 7-25

Report 7-01, V, D; Overture 7-19 (CW, pp. 364, 390)

WHEREAS, Not all congregations in the Synod have been able to use the Mission:Life curriculum in the Sunday school; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House and the Board of Parish Education have conducted research among the current users of the "Life in Christ" curriculum to identify strengths and weaknesses of that series; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Parish Education reports (CW, p. 364) that a survey of "Life in Christ" users has been conducted, that a need is expressed for a thorough

revision and updating of the "Life in Christ" materials, and has reported that it has begun work on another Bible-story-based, easy-to-use, elementary-level curriculum for Sunday schools that will in effect be a continuation of the "Life in Christ" series, and has scheduled this curriculum for initial use in the fall of 1976; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod support the Board of Parish Education and Concordia Publishing House in their plans to introduce a "New Life in Christ" curriculum based on Article II of the Constitution of the Synod and the Scriptures; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations seeking an alternative to the Mission:Life curriculum be urged to consider the "New Life in Christ" curriculum rather than programs produced by groups not affiliated with our Synod.

Action: Adopted as amended (12).

(By common consent the words "based on Article II . . . Scriptures" were added to the first resolved and "consider" was substituted for "utilize" in the second resolved.)

To Support Establishment of Lutheran Schools

RESOLUTION 7-16

Overtures 7-22, 7-23 (CW, pp. 390—391); N.O. Res. 7-06, 7-12, 7-17

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has consistently supported all agencies of Christian education; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran secondary education is in a period of expansion and growth across our country with additional plans for community high schools; and

WHEREAS, Great enthusiasm for Lutheran elementary education seems to be lacking in many communities; and

WHEREAS, There have been few evidences of growth within the Synod in the area of new elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, The sound foundation of the Great Commission supports the fervent work of our church body in all agencies of Christian education with the words "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"; and

WHEREAS, Many young congregations that are blessed with many children of both elementary and secondary levels usually are also experiencing lack of the financial strength necessary for the establishment of full-time educational endeavors at any level; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod and all of its Districts establish a vigorous program of support for the establishment of elementary schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod and all its Districts study the possibility of utilizing methods employed in the establishment and support of new mission congregations to help congregations where feasible to establish elementary schools by a system of direct financial support by the District or the Synod on a decreasing scale leading to self-support; and be it finally



The "Spirit" singers from Seward

Resolved, That the Synod through the Board of Parish Education continue its encouragement and support of established Lutheran high schools, as well as the establishment of new Lutheran high schools where at all feasible.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Encourage Further Study of Cooperation in the Area of Mental Retardation

RESOLUTION 7-17

Overture 7-37; Report 7-04 (CW, pp. 393, 379—380)

WHEREAS, The Commission for Services to the Mentally Retarded has sought further cooperation and coordination with other Lutheran synods through the Lutheran Council and regional consultants; and

WHEREAS, The commission deems such efforts feasible and beneficial to all parents and relatives of the mentally retarded in those synods and to the retarded members themselves; and

WHEREAS, The intersynodical Commission on Mental Retardation of the Northeast presently provides a model for dealing with common concerns and ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod representatives to the Lutheran Council in cooperation with the Commission for Services to the Mentally Retarded explore further cooperation and coordination of intersynodical ministries to the mentally retarded and report such findings to the 1977 synodical convention.

Action: Adopted (12).

To Encourage Congregations to Share Director or Coordinator of Christian Education

RESOLUTION 7-18

Overture 7-15; Report 7-01, Res. 3 (CW, pp. 389, 373)

WHEREAS, In its history the Synod has utilized and appreciated different but complementary kinds of Christian education ministries (e.g., the day school, the Sunday school, the weekday school, etc.), as well as Christian education ministers (e.g., directors of Christian education, day school principals, classroom teachers, etc.); and

WHEREAS, The spiritual health of a congregation is fostered by the continued growth of members in the knowledge and application of the Word in their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, Fiscal and other conditions of these congregations often make it impossible to support a Christian day school or to call a full-time person to provide the guidance, direction, and expertise needed to upgrade the quality of their Christian education programs; and

WHEREAS, Pilot studies by the Synod's Board of Parish Education (funded by the Aid Association for Lutherans) have shown the effectiveness of coordinators of Christian education in strengthening the Christian education program of the clusters of congregations they serve; therefore be it

Resolved, That pastors and laymen together assess the Christian education needs in their respective congregations and explore all approaches, including cooperating with sister congregations, to foster continued growth in the Word; and be it further

Resolved, That sharing a director of Christian education between two congregations or a coordinator of Christian education among three or more congregations be encouraged as a valuable way to improve the quality of their educational, music, and youth ministries; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod's Board of Parish Education continue to provide personal and published assistance to those clusters of congregations in the Synod who might profitably engage a director of Christian education or coordinator of Christian education.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Mandate Continued Production of Education Curriculum

RESOLUTION 7-19

Report 7-01 (CW, p. 363—374); N.O. Res. 7-03, 7-12, 7-13 7-23

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* of the Synod authorizes the Board of Parish Education to provide curricular resources for the educational mission of the church (*Handbook* 7.25); and

WHEREAS, The mounting economic pressures and a drastically reduced editorial staff on the Board of Parish Education makes it more difficult for the Board of Parish Education to carry out this important function; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention reaffirm its mandate to the Board of Parish Education nevertheless to plan and direct the production of materials necessary to carry out an effective program of parish education, to provide a comprehensive program of leadership training materials, and to provide periodical literature such as story papers and devotional literature for children and periodicals for youth and adults.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Study Use of Bible and Catechism Versions in Educational Materials

RESOLUTION 7-20

Overture 7-16 (CW, p. 389)

WHEREAS, The concurrent use in our Synod of several translations or versions of the Bible and of Luther's Small Catechism may be causing some confusion (e.g., memory work); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has never designated any translation or version of the Bible as the official translation for exclusive use in the Synod (CW, CTCR report, App. 3-01F, pp. 50—55); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has authorized for use at least two English translations of Luther's Small Catechism; and

WHEREAS, In the interest of uniformity the Board of Parish Education and Concordia Publishing House are

now consistently using the Revised Standard Version and the 1967 intersynodical translation of the Catechism in educational materials; therefore be it

Resolved, That for the immediate future the Board of Parish Education and Concordia Publishing House continue their current practice in the publishing of these educational materials and that they give this concern ongoing attention.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Decline to Direct CPH to Publish Dr. Wm. Beck's Translation of the Old Testament

RESOLUTION 7-21

Overture 7-27A—C (CW, p. 391)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Church Literature and the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House after careful review of Dr. William Beck's translation of the Old Testament have determined that its publication, in addition to being economically unsound, would be to a great extent a duplication of the foundation-supported New International Version to be published by Zondervan; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod respectfully decline Overtures 7-27 A, 7-27 B, and 7-27C.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Utilize Concordia Catechism Filmstrips

RESOLUTION 7-22

Overture 7-17 (CW, p. 389)

WHEREAS, The "Christian Faith and Life" filmstrips (CPH Cat. No. 79-101 to 79-104) were allowed to go out of print 4 years ago for lack of consumer demand; and

WHEREAS, The subject matter of these filmstrips developed in 1947, 1951, 1952, and 1953 is covered in the available new filmstrips correlated to the "Concordia Catechism Series"; therefore be it

Resolved, That pastors and teachers be encouraged to utilize filmstrips of the "Concordia Catechism Series" as a means of enriching their teaching of these basic tenets of the Christian faith.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Express Thanks

RESOLUTION 7-23

Overtures 7-39—7-42 (CW, p. 394)

The committee recommends that the request be honored to have the Secretary send letters of thanks. These resolutions of thanks have been filed with the Secretary for transmittal.

Action: *Reported (12).*

8. SOCIAL MINISTRY

To Give Serious Consideration to Opportunities in Social Ministry and World Relief

RESOLUTION 8-01

Report 8-01 (CW, pp. 395—397)

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief has presented an informative and thorough report of its activities and projected goals; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend the board for emphasizing "Christ's Care" as the motivation for its important work; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge all of our congregations and members to give serious consideration to the ten areas of opportunities as referred to in the report, namely:

1. To the millions of unemployed and underemployed;
2. To the millions of victims of hunger and poverty;
3. To the victims of injustice and oppression;
4. To the growing number of aging persons who feel unwanted and useless;
5. To the families which are broken and children who are hurt;
6. To the ill-housed and "homeless";
7. To the millions of victims of alcohol and drugs;
8. To the victims of inadequate correctional programs;
9. To the safety and security of people in our communities;
10. To the environment of our world which God has given to us.

Action: Adopted (4).



Ethel Lesh reporting for Committee 8

To Encourage Commission on Ministerial Health

RESOLUTION 8-02

Report 8-02 (CW, p. 397)

WHEREAS, The three-year pilot program of the Commission on Ministerial Health has discovered a real need for psychological assistance to professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, The report indicates further development of this program is indicated on the national, District, and local level; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of directors of the Synod fund the continuation of this program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Districts be encouraged to establish Ministerial Health Committees to assist in implementing this program.

Action: Adopted as amended (4).

(Amendment: "seek to" was deleted from the first resolved.)

To Renew Efforts in Behalf of World Hunger

RESOLUTION 8-03

Reports 8-01, 8-03; Overtures 8-05—8-07 (CW, pp. 395—399)

WHEREAS, The distressing problems of world hunger, starvation, malnutrition, and premature death increasingly plague millions in many parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord who redeemed us to be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom has commanded us to love all mankind and minister to the needs of all people in His name; and

WHEREAS, Our generous Lord has blessed the vast majority of our membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with far more money and goods than we really need (2 Cor. 8:14-15); and

WHEREAS, The Synod has already made significant efforts in ministering to human needs throughout the world and has received direction and encouragement from the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief as well as the Commission on World Hunger; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod set a new goal of raising at least \$2,000,000 for world hunger during the next biennium, over and above the funds needed to continue the ongoing world relief programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod effectively implement this effort by authorizing the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, in consultation with the Board of Directors, to engage the services of a full-time staff person to assist the secretary of World Relief; the salary and expenses for this added staff person to be provided from the funds received by World Relief/World Hunger; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod through its President and

through its membership renew a strong encouragement to our government through the appropriate elected and/or appointed leaders to do its utmost in the humanitarian task of alleviating and eliminating hunger and starvation wherever possible throughout the world; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief together with the Commission on World Hunger continue to provide aggressive leadership and direction in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ for this important and urgent ministry.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(But see also Res. 4-15 re Commission on World Hunger.)

To Support Brothers and Sisters in Namibia

RESOLUTION 8-04

Overture 8-14 (CW, pp. 400—401)

WHEREAS, 650,000 of the 750,000 inhabitants of Namibia are black and suffering severe racial oppression under the apartheid (segregationist) rule of South Africa; and

WHEREAS, 340,000 of the 650,000 black inhabitants of Namibia are members of the Ovambokavanga Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South-West Africa; and

WHEREAS, The selfsame system of apartheid which oppresses our black Christian sisters and brothers in South-West Africa (Namibia) continues to cause suffering among black Christians, many of whom are Lutherans, in South Africa; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod support brothers and sisters in Christ in their struggle for justice and racial equality, remembering God's call to us "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God" (Micah 6:8); and be it further

Resolved, That the Anaheim convention send through the secretary of the Synod our Christian greetings and concern to the Rev. Leonard Auala, bishop of the Ovambokavanga Evangelical Lutheran Church, and to Rev. Johannes de Vries, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South-West Africa; and be it finally

Resolved, That the synodical Board of Social Ministry and World Relief disseminate information regarding the plight of the Namibians and South Africans, along with suggested action to congregations and Districts.

Action: *Adopted as amended (4).*

(Amendment: the third whereas and the addition of "and South Africans" in the final resolved. A motion to strike the first resolved was declined.)

To Stand with Persecuted Christians

RESOLUTION 8-05

Overture 8-04A, 8-04B, 8-04C (CW, p. 398)

WHEREAS, As Christians we are concerned about

injustice and oppression wherever these are to be found; but toward our fellow Christians we have a special obligation, particularly where they are experiencing oppression in severe form; since it is well known that Christians are being more severely persecuted in territories under Communist rule; therefore be it

Resolved, That we solemnly declare our solidarity with the suffering, bleeding, yet confessing church under oppression (1 Cor. 12:16); and be it further

Resolved, That we praise God for the inspiring, victorious faith and love with which He has blest these our persecuted brethren; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank our gracious God for having hitherto preserved our nation and church from the scourge of terror and persecution; and be it finally

Resolved, That we call on all Christians who enjoy the privilege of political freedom to be well informed about the fate of Christians under oppression, to pray fervently for our persecuted fellow believers and for the conversion of their tormentors, to support these suffering Christians by every proper means, and to imitate humbly their great zeal and self-sacrifice in the service of the crucified and risen Savior; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on all church leaders to keep the cause of the oppressed Christians before world opinion and not by silence to aid and abet their persecution. We encourage them to use every proper means to do this: through the United Nations Organization, which has guaranteed the citizens basic human rights (Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), urging these nations to take all steps possible to secure compliance with these declarations; through special national observances, such as Captive Nations Week; through personal leadership in their own areas to make people aware of the need for such intercession; and be it finally

Resolved, That we call on all Christians to pray for their fellow believers in the captive nations especially as a reminder to us of their needs and struggles, the same struggles with which we identify as fellow members of the body of Christ (James 5:16).

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(An amendment to replace "Communist" with a reference to all oppressive forms of civil government failed.)

To Expand Project Compassion

RESOLUTION 8-06

Report 8-01; Overture 8-13 (CW, pp. 396, 400)

WHEREAS, Project Compassion has captured the imagination and attention of people in and outside the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The volunteers of Project Compassion are active in prisons, nursing homes, mental health institutions, homes for the aging, and general hospitals, and are being utilized by parishes for friendly visiting to home-bound elderly, handicapped, and chronically ill in the communities of which our parishes are a part; and

WHEREAS, In Canada and in the United States more than 12,000 volunteers are currently involved in various forms of volunteer activity directly or indirectly related to Project Compassion; and

WHEREAS, Project Compassion activities have the endorsement of secular and church volunteer agencies; and

WHEREAS, Project Compassion volunteers could be trained for service to people in other areas of our church and secular society; therefore be it

Resolved, That a staff person from the Boards of Evangelism, Missions, and Youth together with a staff person from Social Ministry and World Relief explore new areas where Project Compassion volunteers' skills could be utilized; and be it further

Resolved, That after specific areas for new activities by Project Compassion volunteers have been determined, training materials be designed, and one or more pilots under the direction and supervision of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief be held in areas of greater need.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Create and Improve Housing

RESOLUTION 8-07

Overture 8-15 (CW, p. 401)

WHEREAS, The Lord gives us a new commandment "that you love one another; even as I have loved you" (John 13:34); and

WHEREAS, Christ calls us to minister to the whole man (Matt. 25:40); and

WHEREAS, Housing is deteriorating rapidly; and

WHEREAS, Much of the housing that exists is inadequate, creating health and safety hazards; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief inform Districts and congregations on how to support efforts to stimulate the building of homes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its members to find ways of providing more money to people to rent or buy adequate housing.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

(The committee struck "in the cities" from the third whereas.)

To be Concerned About Unemployment

RESOLUTION 8-08

Report 8-01; Overture 8-11 (CW, pp. 397, 400)

WHEREAS, Unemployment has reached a most serious high figure; and

WHEREAS, Unemployment brings with it debilitating societal problems in all areas of life, increase in criminal activities, deterioration of mental and/or physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, Unemployment also can effect a reduction in the mission and ministry of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the church support the efforts of government to provide employment opportunities and welfare assistance and services on a national and local scale, which will help to reduce the harsh realities of unemployment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief develop suggestions designed to assist a parish and its pastor to become centers of healing for the ills related to unemployment; and be it finally

Resolved, That each of the parishes of our church become a center of concern to assist with employment opportunities and the welfare assistance available in the private and public sector for individuals and families adversely affected by unemployment.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Emphasize Concern for Mental Health

RESOLUTION 8-09

Overtures 8-12A, 8-12B (CW, p. 400)

WHEREAS, Emotional crises and stress are a significant part of our present culture; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 45 percent of those who suffer from emotional disorders seek a clergyman for initial counsel; and

WHEREAS, Mental health programs are now decentralizing from state mental hospitals to community mental health centers; and

WHEREAS, Mental health services have for the most part now become the responsibility of the community, which includes the congregation and its pastor(s); and

WHEREAS, Pastoral counseling centers are also being founded and their services expanding in the community; and

WHEREAS, The ministry of pastors and lay people would be strengthened by familiarization with community mental health programs and consultation from mental health professionals; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage both pastors and lay members to serve as arms of the community mental health and pastoral counseling healing efforts and utilize and support the services available to them for referral, consultation, and education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage both pastors and lay members to work within their communities to support the efforts of the community mental health centers in educating their communities toward mental health understanding and services, in urging their communities to fund programs for cost sharing, and in supporting the efforts to have mental health programs and services within their neighborhoods.

Action: *Adopted as amended (7).*

(Amendments: the 5th whereas, the second resolved, and the words "and pastoral counseling" in the first resolved. The convention declined to add a final resolved: "That the church offer Christ as the answer to the needs of people with mental health problems.")

To Affirm the Sanctity of Life

RESOLUTION 8-10

Overture 8-10 (CW, pp. 399—400)

WHEREAS, God created men in His image and gave them life; and

WHEREAS, The world belittles the value of human life through perverting God's will by prematurely terminating life through such acts as indiscriminate abortion, euthanasia, and the improper use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Human life has been dehumanized and depersonalized for many members of our human family by racist, sexist, and separatist attitudes, the abuse of technological developments, and acts of injustice; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod rededicate itself to the treasuring, supporting, and protecting of human life as a gift of God; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Synod witness to the same not only with words but with deeds, placing the highest priorities on the needs of people rather than things; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief continue to sensitize Districts and parishes through workshops, seminars, pastoral conferences, etc., to produce action.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

(In Session 7 the committee deleted "indiscriminate" before "euthanasia" in the second whereas. The convention amended the third whereas by inserting "sexist." A motion was made and seconded to change the wording of the second whereas to "...such acts as abortion for reasons other than medical..." During the discussion of the amendment a motion was declined to table Res. 8-10, including its amendments, in favor of Res. 3-23A. Time had expired before action could be taken on the proposed amendment. Res. 8-10 did not come before the assembly again for consideration.)

To Deal with the Abortion Question

RESOLUTION 8-11

Overtures 8-09A—C (CW, p. 399)

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court determined in an interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment that the State cannot invade the right of privacy, including a woman's qualified right to terminate her pregnancy within the first three months; and

WHEREAS, The decision also stated that the State has legitimate interests in protecting both the pregnant woman's health and the potentiality of human life at its various stages and may regulate and prohibit abortion, except for therapeutic reasons related to maternal health; and

WHEREAS, There are members of the Synod who oppose the ruling of the Supreme Court on abortion and seek to effect change; and

WHEREAS, There are efforts at present by legislators to bring about a constitutional amendment which denies, without due process of law, deprivation of life from the moment of conception; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage those who oppose the Supreme Court decision to follow and support the legislative process of constitutional amendment to accomplish their aim; and be it further

Resolved, That the church continue to seek the counsel and guidance of all of Scripture, Law and Gospel, for a deeper understanding of the meaning and purpose of human life in many circumstances; and be it finally

Resolved, That the church, under Law and Gospel, be sensitive to the dilemma of this human situation which obligates the Christian community to deal pastorally with persons who have made or are making decisions under God which bear upon this important and crucial matter.

Action: *Withdrawn by the floor committee (4).*

To Involve Our Membership in the Issue of Capital Punishment

RESOLUTION 8-12

Overture 8-08 (CW, p. 399)

WHEREAS, Both the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions approve capital punishment by the government for just cause (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:12; Lev. 24:17; Num. 35:21; Deut. 19:11-12; Acts 25:11; Rom. 13:4; Large Catechism I, 180—81, Tappert, p. 389); and

WHEREAS, The 1967 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod declared "that capital punishment is in accord with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions"; and

WHEREAS, government in the interest of securing uniform justice and showing mercy also has the right to choose not to exercise its power of capital punishment; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of capital punishment has largely been exercised on the poor, the uneducated, and the minority groups; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its members to study the issues involving the question of when, how, and by what procedures capital punishment is or is not to be administered; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its members to pray for those in government who are working with these problems and implore the grace of God that they might receive wisdom, insight, and divine guidance in arriving at a truly God-pleasing decision for the welfare of all our citizens; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its members to exercise their rights as citizens to seek a just resolution of this issue.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Support Acts of Reconciliation Regarding Amnesty

RESOLUTION 8-13A (Replacing Res. 8-13)

Overture 8-16 (CW, p. 401)

WHEREAS, The question of amnesty in connection with the Vietnam conflict is a contemporary Christian issue and therefore a topic worthy of consideration on the agenda of our church; and

WHEREAS, Our own church body may be represented by several hundred men among the many thousands of men who

1. are conflict resisters residing outside the United States, or
2. refused to register, accept induction, or comply in other ways with Selective Service, or
3. were convicted of draft violations, are in prison, on probation, or released, or
4. deserted from the military and now live in exile or underground, or
5. received less-than-honorable discharges because of conflict objection; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod affirm that reconciliation is fundamental to the Christian life; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod call for acts of reconciliation between those who believed they served their nation by supporting this conflict and those who believe they served their nation by refusing to support this conflict; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief for its participation in the Lutheran Ministry to Veterans, an inter-Lutheran agency; and be it further

Resolved, That loving concern be urged for those who conscientiously participated and now return to a society which may forget their service or give it only a negative meaning; and also that approval be expressed for initiative from both government and private agencies in job training and placement, drug rehabilitation and other helps toward reentry into civilian life; and be it finally

Resolved, That loving concern also be urged for those who refused to participate for reasons of conscience,

including those who chose to face prosecution or to leave our land and seek refuge in another.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

(The committee replaced its tentative Res. 8-13 with Res. 8-13A.)

To Assist in Resettlement of Vietnamese People

RESOLUTION 8-14

Report 8-01 (CW, p. 395)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has consistently demonstrated compassion and concern in the resettlement of refugees, e.g., the displaced persons of Eastern Europe after World War II, the Hungarian refugees in 1956, the Cuban refugees in 1962, and more recently the Uganda Asians in 1974; and

WHEREAS, The sudden ending of the Vietnam conflict has led to the need to resettle approximately 130,000 persons who are seeking a home in the U.S. and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, an inter-Lutheran agency operating within the framework of LCUSA has been approved by the U.S. government as one of the official agencies of our land to resettle these persons; and

WHEREAS, The three Presidents of the Lutheran churches have issued statements of support, calling on Lutheran congregations to secure 2,000 sponsors who will provide 11,000 persons with new opportunities for a good life in our countries; therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage our congregations to consider seriously the possibility of sponsoring a family of Vietnamese people; and be it further

Resolved, That we renew our commitment to assist those families that have been resettled to adjust to life in our countries; and be it further

Resolved, That we provide support to the program of LIRS in resettling at least our share of the 11,000 refugees who are seeking new life in the U.S. and Canada; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief continue its activity in promoting these goals.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

9. SPECIAL AND SUNDRY MATTERS

To Observe the Black Centennial

RESOLUTION 9-01

Report 9-03 (CW, p. 409); N.O. Res. 11-22

WHEREAS, The Synod has proclaimed 1977 to be the year for synodical observance of 100 years of ministry among black brothers; and

WHEREAS, A specially appointed Black Centennial Committee has been formulating specific recommendations for observing the Black Centennial; therefore be it

Resolved, That the entire Synod observe the Black Centennial for a full year, beginning with the 1977 synodical convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors authorize the implementation of those recommendations of the committee which it deems to be beneficial and practical; and be it finally

Resolved, That a Synodwide thankoffering be gathered during the year of observance for the purposes of funding (a) the development of the celebration program and (b) the recruitment and financing of the training of black professional church workers.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(The committee changed "supervise" to "authorize" in the second resolved.)

To Encourage Use of Materials Provided by the American Bicentennial Committee

RESOLUTION 9-02

Report 9-04; Overture 9-27 (CW, pp. 409, 414)

WHEREAS, The American Bicentennial Committee of the Synod is actively pursuing its mandate to prepare and provide materials that will enable our church body to participate with Christian propriety and dignity in the Bicentennial of our beloved nation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention urge all congregations to participate as fully as possible in the observance of the Bicentennial of our nation's birth, making as full use as is practical of the materials provided by the Bicentennial Committee.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Amend Bylaws re Armed Forces Commission

RESOLUTION 9-03

Report 9-01 (CW, pp. 403—405)

Resolved, That the Bylaw revisions proposed by the Armed Forces Commission be adopted:

PRESENT WORDING

15.23 General Duties

c. endeavor to keep the Synod well represented in

all branches of the Armed Forces by soliciting and processing applications and granting ecclesiastical endorsements for appointments as chaplains in the Armed Forces and Veterans Administration;

15.27 Active Military Personnel

The commission shall —

a. keep an accurate record of all of Synod's personnel serving in the various branches of the Armed Forces;

c. provide Christian literature for personnel in the Armed Forces and refer them to the nearest chaplain or pastor and Communion service;

15.29 The Military and Veterans in Hospitals

b. secure the services of civilian pastors to minister in hospitals not served by a chaplain of the Synod;

PROPOSED WORDING

15.23 General Duties

c. endeavor to keep the Synod well represented in all branches of the Armed Forces by soliciting and processing applications and granting ecclesiastical endorsements for appointments as chaplains in the Armed Forces and Veterans Administration and as directors of religious education for the military services;

h. maintain liaison and operation with the Division of Service to Military Personnel of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. in matters pertaining to the military and with the Department of Institutional Chaplaincy and Clinical Pastoral Education of the Division of Mission and Ministry of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. in matters pertaining to the Veterans Administration.

15.27 Active Military Personnel

The commission shall —

a. keep an accurate record of all of the Synod's personnel serving in the various branches of the Armed Forces;

c. provide Christian literature for personnel in the Armed Forces and refer them to the nearest Lutheran chaplain or military contact pastor and Communion service;

15.29 The Military and Veterans in Hospitals

b. secure the services of Lutheran visitation pastors to minister in hospitals not served by a chaplain of the Synod;

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Change Bylaw 5.31 k (Appeals Cases)

RESOLUTION 9-04

Report 9-02 (CW, p. 408)

WHEREAS, The present Bylaw 5.31 k states that the records of the "final decisions" made by the Commission of Adjudication or the Board of Appeals "shall be preserved in a locked file in the custody of the President of the Synod"; and

WHEREAS, That Bylaw presently specifies that "any such closed files shall be opened only with the approval of the Board of Appeals"; and

WHEREAS, The Concordia Historical Institute, the Department of Archives and History, has been desig-

nated as the depository for such historical records in Bylaw 15.41 a; and

WHEREAS, Synodical boards and commissions "shall transfer correspondence, records, and other papers from their respective offices to the archives when they are no longer of current operational value" according to Bylaw 15.51 a; and

WHEREAS, The Institute is better equipped to provide security and a seal to such records as determined by the Synod than the headquarters offices or a separately designated storage area; and

WHEREAS, The official transactions of any synodical board or commission ought to become available for historical examination at some designated point; and

WHEREAS, Even records and resources of extremely sensitive and delicate cases ultimately do become available for research; and

WHEREAS, It would be highly desirable that the official records as stated in Bylaw 5.31 k also be made available under certain circumstances after the lapse of a long period of time; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 5.31 k be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

k. All files of cases in which a final decision has been rendered by a commission or board shall be preserved in a locked file in the custody of the President of the Synod. Any such closed files shall be opened only with the approval of the Board of Appeals.

PROPOSED WORDING

k. All files of cases in which a final decision has been rendered by a commission or board on the synodical level shall be preserved in locked files in the custody of the Concordia Historical Institute. Any such files shall be opened only with the approval and for the use of the Board of Appeals during the first 25 years from the date of closing.

Action: Adopted (10).

To Provide for Archives Copies of Certain Synodical Publications

RESOLUTION 9-05

Report 9-02 (CW, p. 408)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 11.25 e provides for deposit of two copies of the *Proceedings* of the synodical convention and of the *Statistical Yearbook* in the synodical archives; and

WHEREAS, These provisions will not supply the necessary copies of these resources for District archives and synodical college and seminary libraries; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 11.25 e be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

e. Concordia Publishing House shall supply the Secretary of the Synod with two copies of each *Statistical Yearbook* and of all proceedings printed by it of the Synod and of the several Districts, for deposit in the Synod's archives.

PROPOSED WORDING

e. Concordia Publishing House shall supply the Secretary of the Synod with two copies of each *Statistical Yearbook* and of all *Proceedings* printed by it of the Synod and of the several Districts for deposit in the Synod's archives. In addition, it shall deposit one copy each of the *Statistical Yearbook* and the Synod's *Proceedings* in the archives of the Districts and the libraries of the synodical colleges and seminaries.

Action: Adopted (10).

To Eliminate the Excuse Committee for District Conventions

RESOLUTION 9-06

Overture 9-21 (CW, p. 413)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.19 requires that all duly elected and advisory members shall attend all sessions of the District convention; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.19 further provides that all delegates who arrive late or leave early or who do not attend the convention provide a written excuse; and

WHEREAS, To carry out such a procedure at the District conventions, excuse committees in the larger Districts expend unusual amounts of time attempting to determine the accuracy of registrations; and

WHEREAS, It is almost an impossibility to tell whether the delegate has truly come late or has left early; and

WHEREAS, Often the reports of these committees are incomplete and often prove to be quite embarrassing; and

WHEREAS, Seldom if ever is the requirement of Bylaw 3.19, "Unexcused delegates shall be admonished by the District President," carried out with any success; therefore be it

Resolved, That the last two sentences of Article 3.19 of the Bylaws be deleted:

PRESENT WORDING

3.19 Attendance of Delegates

All duly elected delegates and advisory members shall attend all sessions regularly until the close of the convention. All delegates who arrive late or leave early or who do not attend at all shall present a written excuse. Unexcused delegates shall be admonished by the District President.

PROPOSED WORDING

3.19 Attendance of Delegates

All duly elected delegates and advisory members shall attend all sessions of the convention regularly until the close of the convention.

Action: Adopted (10).

(The committee changed "are encouraged to" to "shall" in the second line of proposed Bylaw 3.19.)

To Admonish Against Malicious and Slandorous Attacks

RESOLUTION 9-07

Overture 9-22 (CW, p. 413)

WHEREAS, One of the objects of the Synod is "the

protection of pastors, teachers, and congregations in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights" (Constitution, Art. III, 8); and

WHEREAS, Synodical officials and other brethren have been vilified and attacked due to false information given to the secular and religious press; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention deplore all such slanderous attacks, express its regrets to those who have been vilified, and encourage those who have been guilty of such unchristian acts to repent and to ask the forgiveness of those whom they have offended.

Action: Adopted (10).

(The delegates declined to refer the resolution back to the committee and also declined an amendment to insert "and the eight District Presidents specifically" in the second whereas.)

To Express Thanks and Support of Our Synodical Officials

RESOLUTION 9-08

Overtures 9-23, 9-24 (CW, p. 414)

WHEREAS, Our synodical officials have all faced very trying times because of the difficulties in our Synod; and

WHEREAS, They have accepted this burden graciously and have carried out their responsibilities with Christian patience; therefore be it

Resolved, That we extend our thanks to our synodical officials and assure them of our continued prayers and support of their efforts in behalf of our Lord's church.

Action: Adopted (10).

(The convention declined an amendment to substitute "all persons involved in synodical differences" for "our synodical officials" in the title; "many brothers and sisters" for "our synodical officials" in the first whereas; and to insert "and all other persons involved in our various controversies" after "officials" in the resolved.)



Veeps

To Urge Congregations to Follow Synodical Procedures in Calling Pastors and Teachers

RESOLUTION 9-09

Overtures 9-18A—9-19, (CW, pp. 412—413); N.O. Res. 11-13 (CW, pp. 448—449)

WHEREAS, Every congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has the right to expect and to demand that every called servant of the Word, whether pastor or teacher, be a trustworthy steward of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1-2) and will honor his ordination and/or installation vows; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention encourage the District Presidents to be open to the congregations who are concerned about the theological stance of those who are on their call lists, and that the Council of Presidents be encouraged to continue to study the matter of congregational interviews of pastors and teachers and of the proper use of these interviews in the church; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations who are calling pastors and teachers be urged to seek information about their candidates from their District Presidents and Circuit Counselors; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations be urged to exercise their right to suggest names to their District President for inclusion on their call lists.

Action: Adopted (10).

To Advise the Rev. Herman Otten to Apply to the Faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for Certification into the LCMS Ministerium

RESOLUTION 9-10

Overtures 9-12A, 9-12B, 9-12C, 9-13, 9-14, 9-17 (CW, pp. 411—412); N.O. Res. 11-20 (CW, p. 449)

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Synod (4.15) provide specific procedures for certification into the pastoral ministry of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, For the sake of peace and harmony in the Synod and of justice to all concerned it is imperative that the matter be resolved; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Rev. Herman Otten be advised to reapply to the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for certification into the pastoral ministry if he so desires; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its willingness to welcome into the pastoral ministry all who have met the requirements for certification.

Action: Adopted (10).

(The committee changed "801 De Mun" to "St. Louis" throughout. A motion to consider Overture 9-12A as a substitute was ruled out of order, as well as a suggestion that the former President of the Synod be asked to comment on his handling of the case.)

To Decline Overtures Relative to *Christian News*

RESOLUTION 9-11

Overtures 9-14—9-17 (CW, p. 412); N.O. Res. 11-07 (CW, p. 448)

WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents acted in good faith and gave rationale for their repudiation of *Christian News*; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 9-14, 9-15, 9-16, and 9-17 be declined.

Action: *Adopted* (10).

To Discourage Lawsuits

RESOLUTION 9-12

Overture 9-09 (CW, p. 411)

WHEREAS, There is an unusual amount of tension within the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Different congregations react differently, some minimizing the problem and others seeking to influence matters through overtures such as this; and

WHEREAS, Some congregations feel compelled to oppose wrongs and to testify to the truth by separating from the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Such action normally finds within the parish a minority opposing the separation; and

WHEREAS, Existing discord among brothers is deepened when lawsuits are filed to prevent such disassociation; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures forbid airing our problems before the world (1 Cor. 6), which exposure is interpreted by the world as a struggle over material advantage rather than a sincere concern for the truth; therefore be it

Resolved, That in any case lawsuits be discouraged; and be it further

Resolved, That such congregations also consider the legal and serious financial problems that may result from a division; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations which are threatened by division be encouraged to use every avenue available within our fellowship of faith to achieve reconciliation.

Action: *Adopted* (10).

(The convention declined to consider Overture 9-09 as a substitute.)

To Review the Brux Case

RESOLUTION 9-13

Overture 9-29 (CW, p. 415)

WHEREAS, The synodical convention in New York reopened the long dormant case against Dr. Adolph Brux and by resolution gravitated toward exoneration of that former missionary (to India), whose prayer fellowship

with non-Lutheran Christians and defense of same led to his recall by the Board for Foreign Missions; and

WHEREAS, The New York convention in Resolution 13-22 stated: "That the Synod assure Dr. Brux that we desire to resolve the causes of misunderstanding in the spirit of love"; and

WHEREAS, This has not been consummated; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention direct the synodical Board for Missions to give this matter top priority in bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion, and report its action to the 1977 synodical convention.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

(The committee supplied the wording given above in the resolved to replace the original words "... Board for Missions to seek a satisfactory conclusion to this case and report ...")

To Extend Involvement of Members in Mission

RESOLUTION 9-14

Overture 9-10 (CW, p. 411)

WHEREAS, "We affirm that the church is God's mission . . . and we place ourselves, our congregations, and our Synod into His loving hand as willing instruments of His great mission to the world" (Mission Affirmations, Detroit, 1965); and

WHEREAS, If the church is to be God's mission, each Christian must be involved both within the church when it acts as a corporate body, and as an individual believer in the world; therefore be it

Resolved, That, while recognizing the autonomy of the congregation in such matters as right of suffrage and the right to hold office, we nevertheless encourage each congregation to review its constitution and if possible provide opportunity to every member, regardless of age or sex, to be actively involved in mission.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Thank the LLL for Microfilm Support

RESOLUTION 9-15

Report 9-02 (CW, p. 409)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Laymen's League has rendered financial support to the Concordia Historical Institute for its photoduplication and microfilm program for 20 consecutive years; therefore be it

Resolved, That this 51st convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod express its gratitude to the LLL for support of the synodical archives and the Concordia Historical Institute, and that the LLL be encouraged to continue its support of the Institute.

Action: *This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.*

To Encourage Improvement in Television Programing and Educational Materials

RESOLUTION 9-16

Overtures 9-11, 9-25 (CW, pp. 411, 414)

WHEREAS, The content of many television programs, as well as that of some of the educational material used in public schools, may well contribute to the moral decay of viewers and may adversely affect the minds and faith of our youth with views that are contrary to the clear teachings of Holy Scripture; therefore be it

Resolved, That all members of the Synod be urged to exercise their Christian and civic responsibility to encourage the presentation of only such television programs and the use of such educational material in public schools as will contribute to the moral and civic uplift of our citizenry and youth.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Suggest Mission Affirmations as Possible Theme for the 1977 Convention

RESOLUTION 9-17

Overture 9-05 (CW, p. 410)

WHEREAS, Our Lord has commanded, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"; and

WHEREAS, There is danger that amid our manifold concerns and our current controversies we may fail to give Christ's mission our primary devotion of time and energy; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Affirmations, which summon us to God's mission, as adopted in Detroit in 1965 were unanimously reaffirmed at the 50th synodical convention in New Orleans; therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Synod consider the Mission Affirmations as a possible theme and thrust for Bible study and for mission information and inspiration at the 1977 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Encourage Financial Support for the Rebuilding of Landmarks in Perry County

RESOLUTION 9-18

Overture 9-28 (CW, pp. 414—415)

WHEREAS, The matter of rebuilding historic landmarks in Perry County, Mo., was referred to the Concordia Historical Institute in Resolution 11-05 (Denver Convention, 1971); therefore be it

Resolved, That we encourage the CHI to continue evaluating the needs and opportunities for such rebuilding; and be it further

Resolved, That institutions, congregations, and individuals be encouraged to contribute funds for rebuilding and restoration.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Retain Review of Conference Essays

RESOLUTION 9-19

Overture 9-20 (CW, p. 413)

WHEREAS, Articles 4.111 and 4.113 of the *Handbook* require that the essays and minutes of official pastoral and teachers conferences be submitted to a District committee for review and that this committee report its findings to the District convention; and

WHEREAS, The difficulties involved are not insurmountable; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 9-20 be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Expedite Convention Business

RESOLUTION 9-20

Overtures 9-06—9-08 (CW, pp. 410—411); N.O. Res. 11-08, 11-10, 11-11

WHEREAS, The Convention Format Committee report (CW, pp. 427—428) has in its proposed "Standing Rules" (CW, p. 428) incorporated the significant procedural changes requested in Overtures 9-06, 9-07, and 9-08; and

WHEREAS, The other suggested changes could not be implemented in time for this convention but might apply to future conventions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the other recommended changes in overtures listed above be referred to the Convention



Happiness is — being a page??

Format Review Committee for consideration and possible implementation at the 1977 convention of the Synod.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to List Presidents of Congregations in *Annual*

RESOLUTION 9-21

Overture 9-26 (CW, p. 414)

WHEREAS, Terms of office of presidents of congregations are in most cases relatively short; and

WHEREAS, Presidents of congregations are elected at various times during the year, often subsequent to the time when information for the *Annual* is requested; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 9-26 be declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Receive Reports Submitted to Committee 9

RESOLUTION 9-22

Reports 9-01—9-04 (CW, pp. 405—410)

Resolved, That this convention accept with thanks the reports of the Armed Forces Commission (9-01); Department of Archives and History, Concordia Historical Institute (9-02); the Black Centennial Committee (9-03); and the American Bicentennial Committee (9-04).

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Implement Vocational Redirection

RESOLUTION 9-23

N.O. Res. 11-09 (CW, p. 448)

WHEREAS, Synodical Bylaw 2.112 provides for the use of vocational redirection; therefore be it

Resolved, That New Orleans Resolution 11-09, Overture 11-15, be referred to the Commission on Ministerial Health.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

10. NOMINATIONS

The report of the Committee for Convention Nominations (see *Workbook*, pp. 417—423) was presented and adopted with several additions and changes listed in the minutes. Other names were placed in nomination from the floor. See Minutes, Sessions 2 and 3.

11. ELECTIONS

The complete results of the elections held during the convention are appended to the Minutes.

12. REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

(In the first session Committee 12 reported 1,022 voting delegates present—a quorum—as of 4:30 P.M. Voting delegate representation eventually reached a reported [in Session 14] figure of 1,118 voters present. The complete audited listing of voting and advisory delegates is given in the introductory section of the Proceedings.)

To Decline Overtures Challenging Eligibility of Members of ELIM

RESOLUTION 12-01

Overtures 12-01, 12-02A—D, 12-03A—D (*CW*, p. 425)

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod carefully and clearly define the qualifications required to serve as a delegate to a convention of the Synod (Bylaws 1.51 to 1.65, Synodical Conventions, *Handbook*, pp. 33—37); and

WHEREAS, Those qualifications already preclude the seating of any pastor not on the official synodical roster; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has ruled: "The question of membership in ELIM has not been decided by the Synod, and at the present time delegates who hold membership in ELIM are eligible to be seated at this convention"; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline the above mentioned overtures.

Action: Adopted (1).

To Decline Overture 12-04 (Eligibility of Seminex Instructors)

RESOLUTION 12-02

Overture 12-04 (*CW*, p. 425)

WHEREAS, All whose names appear on the Synod's official clergy roster are eligible to serve as voting or

advisory delegates to a synodical convention (*Handbook*, 1.57, p. 35); and

WHEREAS, Among educational institutions only those recognized by the Synod have the privilege of advisory representation (*Handbook*, 1.61 b, p. 36); and

WHEREAS, Certain Seminex professors are serving as advisory delegates of the Missouri District and not as advisory representatives of Seminex; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overture 12-04.

Action: Adopted (1).

To Partially Delete Handbook Bylaw 1.59

RESOLUTION 12-03

Bylaw 1.59 (*Handbook*, p. 36)

WHEREAS, New election procedures (*Handbook*, 1.53, pp. 34—35) render the sentence, "In addition, etc." (*Handbook*, 1.59, p. 36) unnecessary; therefore be it

Resolved, To delete the sentence, "In addition, every lay delegate shall present credentials supplied by the synodical Secretary and signed by the pastor and two officers of the congregation." (*Handbook*, 1.59, p. 36). See Res. 5-22.

Action: The Committee substituted Res. 5-22, which was adopted (1).

13. WORK PROGRAM

To Set 1976 and 1977 Work Programs

RESOLUTION 13-01

Overture 13-01 (CW, p. 426)

WHEREAS, New Orleans Resolutions 12-13 and 16-01 recognized the continuing inadequacy of the current procedures involved in work programming and budget preparation; and

WHEREAS, Faithful stewardship requires that the congregational contributions for District and the Synod be utilized in a fully coordinated manner; and

WHEREAS, Detailed work programs adopted by the past several conventions have had to be significantly adjusted because of insufficient pledges to meet the approved goals; and

WHEREAS, The experience involved in attempting to establish a 1975 synodical budget was a totally unsatisfactory experience for all concerned; and

WHEREAS, The 1975 synodical budget level has had to be established on a tentative basis pending additional pledges by congregations or other sources of income; and

WHEREAS, Present Bylaws require that the biennial delegate convention adopt a work program for 1976 and 1977; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 1975 budget be used as a base and

be adjusted by the following items and the work program goal for 1976 and 1977 be adopted:

1975 Budget	\$26,000,000
Less costs not applicable to 1976:	
Convention	(200,000)
Contingency	(300,000)
1976 @ 1975 Dollars	25,500,000
1976 Add: Inflation (approximately 8%)	2,000,000
1976 Work Program	\$27,500,000
1977 Add: Inflation (approximately 8%)	2,200,000
1977 Convention	100,000
1977 Expansion	200,000
1977 Work Program	\$30,000,000

(The observant reader will note that these projected work programs arrest our downward drift. They barely, however, take care of inflation. It must be the hope, prayer, and determination of each of us to work toward making increased budgeting possible.)

and be it further

Resolved, That the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Bylaws for Budget Preparation be utilized as a framework to develop a workable planning, programming, and budgeting system for consideration by the 1977 convention.

Action: Adopted (12).

(The convention declined a motion to defer action until the consideration of Res. 6-08 had been completed.)

14. CONVENTION FORMAT REVIEW

(Several innovations were introduced into the format of the 1975 convention as a result of a New Orleans convention resolution. Such innovations as would be proposed by a special committee were then to be reviewed by a special floor committee before the close of the 1975 convention.)

Special Standing Rules—1975

(See Minutes, to which the Standing Rules are attached.)

Action: Adopted as amended (1).

(Before amendment standing rule 2 had read "... numerical sequence established by the chair." An amendment to allow 60 minutes of debate before the first automatic call of the question was defeated. In Session 14 the convention resolved that the standing rules of the 1975 convention shall serve as the temporary rules for the 1977 convention.)

PRESENT WORDING

1.27 Reports and Overtures

b. Reports and overtures must be submitted in triplicate to the President of the Synod not later than 12 weeks prior to the opening date of the convention. No report or overture received subsequent to that date shall be accepted for convention consideration unless a committee consisting of the President, the First Vice-President, and the Secretary adjudge it to be a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already before the convention.

e. A copy of the convention manual shall be sent not later than 6 weeks prior to the opening date of the convention to each pastor and teacher on the official rosters of the Synod, to each lay delegate and alternate, to each lay member of synodical boards and commissions, and to all such lay teachers and lay ministers as are designated by their District Presidents.

f. All reports and overtures accepted by the President in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs shall be referred by him to convention committees appointed by him in the name of the convention from among the voting delegates (1.51), advisory delegates (1.57), and advisory representatives (1.61). Pastors, teachers, and laymen shall be represented on all committees. The President shall notify committee members of their appointment and of the time and place of their first meeting no later than 8 weeks before the start of the convention. The committee rosters shall be published in *The Lutheran Witness Reporter* at least 6 weeks before the convention. After due consideration of the matters referred to it, each committee is to report its findings and recommendations to the convention. If the President deems it advisable, he may convene any committee prior to the opening of the convention.

g. Any member of the Synod (congregation, pastor, teacher) and any lay delegate to the convention wishing to express comments on reports and overtures appearing in the convention manual may submit these in triplicate at least 2 weeks prior to the convention to the Secretary of the Synod, who shall transmit them to the appropriate convention committee for consideration.

To Reschedule Preconvention Procedure and Calendar

RESOLUTION 14-01

Report 14-01 (CW, pp. 427—428)

WHEREAS, The revised preconvention timetable of events connected with the submission of overtures and preparation of floor committee resolutions utilized for the 1975 synodical convention served to inform delegates and congregations more fully and generated greater interest in and participation in the workings of the Synod and its convention process; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Bylaws of the Synod be altered as follows:

PROPOSED WORDING

1.27 Reports and Overtures

a. No change.

b. Reports and overtures must be submitted in triplicate to the President of the Synod not later than 16 weeks prior to the opening date of the convention. No report or overture received subsequent to that date shall be accepted for convention consideration unless a committee consisting of the President, the First Vice-President, and the Secretary adjudge it to be a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already before the convention.

c. No change.

d. No change.

e. A copy of the convention manual shall be sent not later than 10 weeks prior to the opening date of the convention to each pastor and teacher on the official rosters of the Synod, to each lay delegate and alternate, to each lay member of synodical boards and commissions, and to all such lay teachers and lay ministers as are designated by their District Presidents.

f. All reports and overtures accepted by the President in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs shall be referred by him to convention committees appointed by him in the name of the convention from among the voting delegates (1.51), advisory delegates (1.57), and advisory representatives (1.61). Pastors, teachers, and laymen shall be represented on all committees. The President shall notify committee members of their appointment and of the time and place of their first meeting no later than 12 weeks before the start of the convention. The committee rosters shall be published in *The Lutheran Witness* at least 10 weeks before the convention. After due consideration of the matters referred to it, each committee is to report its findings and recommendations to the convention. If the President deems it advisable, he may convene any committees prior to the opening of the convention. The first issue of *Today's Business* shall be issued containing tentative resolutions. This issue of *Today's Business* shall be sent to all registered delegates of the convention and to each congregation of the Synod.

g. Any member of the Synod (congregation, pastor, teacher) and any lay delegate to the convention wishing to express comments on reports and overtures appearing in the convention manual may submit these in triplicate at least 7 weeks prior to the convention to the Secretary of the Synod, who shall transmit them to the appropriate convention committee for consideration. Response to the tentative resolutions contained in

the first issue of *Today's Business* shall be submitted in triplicate to the chairman of the appropriate floor committee at least one week prior to the convention. All floor committees shall meet at the convention site at a time prior to the opening of the convention to review such responses and reconsider their tentative resolutions accordingly.

and be it finally

Resolved, That the above-mentioned convention timetable be utilized for the 1977 convention of the Synod.

Action: Adopted as amended (14).

(Amendments were adopted by common consent to change 8 weeks to 7 weeks in Bylaw 1.27 g and to drop in Bylaw 1.27 f the words "following which meeting to be held at least 6 weeks before the opening of the convention" after the words "prior to the opening of the convention" toward the end of the paragraph.)

To Utilize New Convention Format

RESOLUTION 14-02

Report 14-01 (CW, pp. 427—428)

WHEREAS, The small-group format used in addition to the traditional convention format at the 1975 convention did indeed facilitate and further fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The Bible study and prayer periods served to enhance the inspirational nature of the gathering; and

WHEREAS, The standing rules suggested by the Convention Format Committee aided the progress of the convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the innovations in format utilized by the 1975 convention be incorporated and further implemented in the 1977 and subsequent conventions of the Synod, with sites appropriate to and facilities adequate for these; and be it further

Resolved, That the facilitators and/or Bible study leaders be carefully chosen and well equipped for their appointed tasks and that appropriate resource people be available to the small groups.

Action: Adopted as amended (14).

(Amendment adopted by common consent: "and further implemented.")

To Respond to Concerns About Convention Procedure

RESOLUTION 14-03

Report 14-01 (CW, pp. 427—428)

WHEREAS, Resolution 9-20 (TB, p. 185) of this 1975 convention of the Synod asks that changes in standing rules in addition to those implemented at this convention



The local convention committee

be referred to and considered by the Convention Format Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, Review of the full convention process necessitates completing the process before reflecting on it to make recommendations as asked for by New Orleans Resolution 4-05; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Convention Format Review Committee meeting at the 1975 Anaheim convention be included in an ad hoc committee reporting to the 1977 convention of the Synod on convention format and procedures; and be it further

Resolved, That this ad hoc committee, working in concert with the office of the synodical President and the convention manager of the Synod, seek further to enhance the informational, fellowship, evangelistic, and inspirational natures of the convention as well as further to expedite the flow of convention business.

Action: Adopted as amended (14).

(Amendment by common consent: "evangelistic.")

15. REFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

(For the first time floor committees availed themselves of the opportunity to refer petitioners to certain boards and commissions before bringing their concerns to a convention of the Synod (Resolution A) or to refer them to actions already taken by previous conventions (Resolution B). Both of these composite resolutions were considered by the convention as part of the agenda-setting process. At that time the convention had the opportunity of amending both resolutions by referring specific items back to a floor committee for their further consideration.)

RESOLUTION A

WHEREAS, The Synod has created many offices, boards, commissions, and departments; and

WHEREAS, It would seem proper that proposals involving such units should ordinarily be directed to them; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the following instances the petitioners direct their concern or proposal as indicated below before bringing them to a convention of the Synod:

Overture or Report	Subject	Board or Com.
Ov. 1-03	Chair of Evangelism	BHE
Ov. 1-13	Mission to Ourselves	Bd. for Evangelism
App. 3-01H	Social Concerns	CTCR
Ov. 3-32	Commendation, Censure	Synod. President
Ov. 3-88	Const. Provisions	Dist. Presidents
Ov. 3-89	Commendation	Bd. of Control, St. Louis
Ov. 3-90	N.O. Res. 3-12A	CCM
Ov. 3-126	"Word of God"	CTCR
Ov. 3-159	New Morality	CTCR
Ov. 3-160	Mission: Life	Synod. President
Ov. 3-161	"From Out of the Desert"	Synod. President & CPH
Ov. 3-162	Almah	CTCR
Ov. 3-166	Special Studies	CTCR
Ov. 3-167	Publicize Positions	CTCR
Ov. 3-170	Lodges	Com. on Organizations
Ov. 3-228	Selective Fellowship	CTCR
Ov. 3-244	Regional Associations	CTCR
Ov. 3-246A-D	LWF	CTCR
Ov. 3-261	Worship Assistance	Com. on Worship
Ov. 4-33	District Mergers	Task Force on Reorganization
Ov. 4-36A-D,	Convention Costs	Task Force on Reorganization
4-37A-F		Task Force on Reorganization
Ov. 4-38	Triennial Conventions	Task Force on Reorganization
Ov. 4-53	Special Offering	Bd. for Missions
Ov. 4-63	Human Relations Com.	Task Force on Reorganization
Ov. 4-70	Notification, Benefit Plans	Board of Managers
Ov. 4-72	Welfare Plan for Canadians	Board of Managers
Ov. 4-73	Retirement Housing Fund	Bd. of Directors
Ov. 4-75	Forced Retirement	Bd. Soc. Min. and World Relief
Ov. 4-80	Synodical Structures	Task Force on Reorganization
Ov. 4-82	Western Luth. Cemetery	Conc. Historical Institute
Ov. 5-13	Clarify "Expedient"	Com. on Constitutional Matters
Ov. 5-175	Status of Preambles	Conv. Format Review Com.
Ov. 6-51	Bd. of Theol. Educ.	BHE
Ov. 6-81	Return of Property to Seminary	BHE
Ov. 6-100 to 102	Canadian Higher Educ.	BHE
Ov. 6-111	Synod. High Schools	BHE
Ov. 6-112	New Models	BHE
Ov. 6-119A,B	Parish Experience	BHE
Ov. 6-120A,B	Sabbaticals	BHE
Ov. 6-122A,B	Tenure	BHE
Ov. 6-123	Modified Serv. and Retirement	BHE
Ov. 6-124	Faculty Housing	BHE
Ov. 6-126	Teacher Colloquies	BHE
Ov. 6-128 and 129	Minority Studies	BHE
Ov. 6-130	Sign Language Courses	BHE
Ov. 6-131	Degree Differentiation	BHE
Ov. 6-137	Faculty Study Grants, Minorities	BHE
Ov. 6-145	Deaconess Training Program	BHE
Ov. 6-146	Courses on Hunger	BHE
Ov. 6-148	Chapel Attendance	BHE
Ov. 6-149	Seminarians in Student Teaching	BHE
Ov. 7-29A,B	Printing, Mission Affirm.	Bd. for Missions

Action: Adopted as amended (2).

(The convention referred Ov. 6-127 back to Committee 6 but declined to refer Overtures 4-36A—D, 4-37A—F, and 4-82 back to Committee 4.)



Hostesses—always smiling!

RESOLUTION B

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has already spoken to certain proposals addressed to this convention; and

WHEREAS, There seems to be no compelling reason to amplify or to revise that previous convention action; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the following instances the petitioners be referred to previous convention action as indicated:

Overture or Report	Subject	Reference
Ov. 1-07, Resolve 1	Office of Evangelist	Milwaukee Res. 8-07 and CTCR New Orleans Report, pp. 464,465
Rep. 3-01, I, No. 11	Women in Pastoral Office	Milwaukee Res. 2-04
Rep. 3-01, II, No. 22	Ev. Luth. Synod	Milwaukee Res. 3-20
Rep. 3-01, II, No. 26;	NCC, WCC	Milwaukee Res. 3-07
Ov. 3-248A-C		
Ov. 3-249A,B		
Rep. 3-01, II, No. 27	Ecumenical Dialogs	Milwaukee Res. 3-12
Rep. 3-01, III, No. 28	Exchange Study	Milwaukee Res. 2-10
Ov. 3-142—3-145B	Ordination of Women	Milwaukee Res. 2-04
Ov. 3-228, 3-241A-C,	Selective Fellowship	Milwaukee Res. 3-11
3-242		
Ov. 3-250	Wis. Synod	Milwaukee Res. 3-20
Ov. 7-21	Conf.—Communion Practice	N.O. Res. 7-10
Ov. 7-28	Reprints	N.O. Res. 10-03

Action: Adopted as amended (2).

(The convention added the overtures referring to the ordination of women. It declined to add Ov. 4-22A—4-32 regarding the English District with a reference to Denver Res. 5-15.)

LATE REPORTS AND OVERTURES ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION

(Bylaw 1.27 b)

4-83U

To Transfer Holy Trinity, Masaryktown, Fla., to Fla.-Ga. District

WHEREAS, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Masaryktown, Florida, previously a member of the SELC District, has requested transfer to the Florida-Georgia District; and

WHEREAS, This transfer has the approval of the SELC District; and

WHEREAS, The Florida-Georgia District has accepted this congregation by action in convention, June 16, 1974, Miami Beach, Florida; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assembled, Anaheim, California, July 4—11, 1975, approve this transfer of membership of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Masaryktown, Florida, from the SELC District to the Florida-Georgia District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT
L. Lloyd Behnken, *President*

4-84U

To Transfer Trinity, Hudson, Wis. from North Wisconsin to Minnesota South District

WHEREAS, Hudson is considered to be a part of the St. Paul-Minneapolis metropolitan area:

a. Hudson is 15 minutes from downtown St. Paul and 30 minutes from downtown Minneapolis;

b. Approximately 70 percent of the people living in Hudson work in Minnesota;

c. The television we watch and the newspapers we read are from St. Paul-Minneapolis; hardly any Wisconsin daily newspapers are delivered in Hudson; no television channel from Wisconsin is available to us; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota South District office is a 30-minute drive from Hudson; the North Wisconsin District office is a 3½-hour drive from Hudson:

a. We are on the fringe area of the North Wisconsin District; we would be a part of the core area of the Minnesota South District;

b. It would be less costly and less time consuming for us to attend District meetings and other activities and for the District personnel to serve us;

c. The services of the District office would be more readily available to us;

d. We would be able to take a more active part in District activities and meetings;

e. The District camp in North Wisconsin is a 4-hour

drive from Hudson; the District camp in Minnesota South is a 1½-hour drive from Hudson; therefore be it

Resolved, That Trinity Lutheran Church, Hudson, Wisconsin, be transferred from the North Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hudson, Wis.
James J. Nelson, *President*
Eugene C. Glade, *Pastor*

4-85U

To Transfer Sherman Park, Milwaukee to English District

WHEREAS, The May 1974 voters assembly of Sherman

from the South Wisconsin District to the English District; and

WHEREAS, The 1974 South Wisconsin District convention meeting in Milwaukee approved this transfer; and

WHEREAS, the President of the English District has expressed his willingness to cooperate with us in joining the English District; therefore be it

Resolved, That our parish officers memorialize the 1975 Anaheim convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to respectfully approve and honor this transfer.

SHERMAN PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
Milwaukee, Wis.
Richard W. Patt, *Pastor*

5-179U

To Receive Gloria Dei, Davie, Fla., into Membership

WHEREAS, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Davie, Florida, the Rev. Charles A. Meyer, pastor, in a meeting on April 28, 1975, voted to seek membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Florida-Georgia District, at the convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Anaheim, California; and

WHEREAS, The Committee on Constitutions and By-laws of the Florida-Georgia District has studied the constitution of this congregation and given its official approval; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assembled in Anaheim, California, July 4-11, 1975, accept into membership with the Synod Gloria

To Reaffirm Bylaw 6.53 (Faculty Appointments)

RESOLUTION 6-19

Overture 6-32 (CW, p. 328)

WHEREAS, The new procedures adopted by the New Orleans convention have safeguarded the academic and confessional integrity of our colleges and seminaries; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 6.53 enables the Board of Control to make the final decision when faculty appointments are being considered for renewal; therefore be it

Resolved, That we reaffirm the philosophy and procedure of this Bylaw.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Disqualify President from Board of Assignments

RESOLUTION 6-20A

(Replacing Resolution 6-20)

Overture 6-50 (CW, p. 333)

WHEREAS, It has been customary in the past for members of the Board of Assignments to absent themselves from deliberations involving members of their families; therefore be it

Resolved, That the board be commended for pursuing this custom and that they be encouraged to continue this tradition; and be it further

Resolved, That Overture 6-50 (CW, p. 333) be respectfully declined.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Encourage Boards of Control to Hear Student Concerns

RESOLUTION 6-21A

(Replacing Resolution 6-21)

Overture 6-25 (CW, p. 326)

WHEREAS, The Synod wishes to acknowledge the concern of the students for the high spiritual, intellectual, and practical quality of their educational experience and enlist their intelligence and imagination in these interests; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention encourage the various Boards of Control to arrange regular opportunities to hear the concerns of students in matters which involve them and avail themselves of these opportunities to correct information or conclusions which are invalid; and be it further

Resolved, That students granted this privilege be encouraged to use every opportunity to cooperate with the respective Board of Control that it may fulfill its responsibilities with facility and joy.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Stipulate District Membership of Faculty Members

RESOLUTION 6-22

Overture 6-118 (CW, p. 353)

WHEREAS, Overture 6-118 has been dealt with in previous conventions; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline this overture.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Expect a More Christian Attitude by Governing Boards

RESOLUTION 6-23

Overture 6-74 (CW, p. 340)

WHEREAS, The unrest exhibited and felt at our Concordia Seminary in St. Louis since the last convention resulted in similar reactions, tensions, and unhappiness at other synodical institutions and among members of the faculties at these institutions; and

WHEREAS, It has been apparent that the Boards of Control at these institutions and at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, as well as the Board for Higher Education, have had some trying times and some tense moments of decision-making, resulting in many anxieties, hurt feelings, misunderstandings, and distrust of one another; therefore be it

Resolved, That we urge all Boards of Control, the Board for Higher Education, and all members of every faculty to proceed in their God-given and God-appointed duties with all patience, all kindness, all charity and love, and to that end seek to work harmoniously with one another.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

To Decline to Revise Election Process

RESOLUTION 6-24

Overtures 6-27—6-31 (CW, pp. 326—328)

WHEREAS, Procedures for the election and term of service of our college and seminary presidents have been carefully developed by the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Current procedures emphasize the ecclesiastical character of these offices; and

WHEREAS, Changes in synodical procedures should be made only after long and prayerful consideration and study; therefore be it

Resolved, That we decline to revise the electoral process which has been established for the choosing of our college and seminary presidents; and be it further

Resolved, That we decline to impose further limitations on the term of service of these leaders of the church.

Action: This resolution died since it failed to receive action before adjournment.

Dei Lutheran Church, Davie, Florida, the Rev. Charles A. Meyer, pastor. **7-43U**

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
Davie, Fla.
Charles A. Meyer, *Pastor*

5-180U

To Receive Berea, Goderich, Ont., into Membership

The Constitutions Committee of the Ontario District, having studied the constitution of Berea-By-The-Water Lutheran Church, Goderich, and having found it to be in accord with the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has submitted its recommendation for approval to the Board of Directors of the Ontario District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In a subsequent meeting the Board of Directors of the Ontario District also granted its approval of the constitution of Berea-By-The-Water Lutheran Church, Goderich.

Therefore the Ontario District Board of Directors does herewith submit this request that the congregation of Berea-By-The-Water Lutheran Church of Goderich, Ontario, be accepted into membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the convention of the Synod to be held at Anaheim, California, this July.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ONTARIO DISTRICT
Harold Patzer, *Secretary*

Report of Commission on Architecture

The commission is making a concerted effort to make the Districts more aware of the commission's services. The following meetings were held since the last convention:

Scottsdale, Ariz.: Nov. 24—25, 1973

Met with Rev. Harold Tietjen, Executive Secretary for the Southern California District.

Tacoma, Wash.: Aug. 8—9, 1974

Held seminar, "The Changing Church," for pastors, students, and architects.

Chicago, Ill.: Nov. 23, 1974

Meeting held to review commission members' efforts in working with the Districts.

Saddle Brook, N.J.: April 5—6, 1975

Met with Dr. Richard Schultz, mission pastor, Mrs. Iona Stockmann, District mission board, and Mr. Fred Nilsson, layman, all from New Jersey District, and Mr. John Corkill, architect for the Southeastern District.

REPORTS AND OVERTURES CORRELATED WITH RESOLUTIONS

Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.	Rep. or Overt.	Res. No.
1-01	1-01		3-26	3-132	3-01		7-10		5-16		
	1-02A		3-27	3-133	3-32		7-11		5-17	5-80A—	5-05
	1-03		3-29	3-134A—	3-36		7-12		5-18	5-83	
	1-04		3-30	3-135			7-13		5-18	5-84A—	5-20
	1-05		3-32	3-136A—	3-17	4-09	4-08		5-24	5-85	
	1-06		3-35	3-138B		4-12	4-06		5-27	5-86A—	5-05
	1-07		5-01A	3-139—	3-33	4-13	4-20		5-28	5-95	
	1-08		Res. A	3-140B		4-14	3-18		5-29	5-93A—	5-06
	1-10		Res. B	3-141	3-08	4-15—	4-01		5-30	5-102	
	1-11	3-02	3-16	3-142—	Res. B	4-20			5-31	5-103—	5-05
	1-12	3-03		3-145B		4-21	4-41		5-34	5-106B	
	1-13	3-04	3-12	3-146A—B	3-08	4-22A—	4-02A		5-38	5-107	5-01A
1-02	1-09	3-05	3-13A	3-147—	3-22	4-32			5-39	5-108A—B	6-04
1-03	Res. A	3-06		3-148		4-33	Res. A		5-40	5-109—	5-02A
1-04	1-09	3-11—	3-01	3-149	3-21	4-34	4-24A		5-41	5-110	
1-05	1-02A	3-26		3-150—	3-15A	4-35	4-34		5-42	5-111	5-08
1-06	1-12	3-25	3-39	3-153		4-36A—	Res. A		5-43	5-112—	5-02A
1-07	1-09	3-27A—	3-31A	3-154	3-28A	4-38			5-45	5-139E	
	Res. B	3-29		3-155—	3-27	4-39A—C	5-56		5-47	5-140—	5-03
1-08—	1-02A	3-30—	3-01	3-158		4-40—	4-32		5-50	5-146B	
1-12		3-31K		3-159—	Res. A	4-43			5-51	5-147	5-38
1-13	Res. A	3-32	Res. A	3-162		4-44	4-16	5-03	5-52	5-148—	5-41
		3-33	3-37	3-163A—	3-23A	4-45	4-33	5-04	5-25	5-148—	5-03
2-01	2-01A	3-34—	3-01	3-164		4-46A—	4-31	5-05	5-19	5-150D	
	2-09A	3-38I		3-165	3-01	4-47B		5-06—	5-36	5-150A—	5-02A
M2-01A	2-22	3-39A—B	4-34		3-20	4-48	4-30	5-09	5-01A	5-152	
M2-01B	2-01A	3-40—	3-01	3-166—	Res. A	4-49	4-07	5-10	5-32	5-153A—	5-03
2-02	2-01A	3-44		3-167		4-50	4-05	5-11—	5-01A	5-154	
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